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US jets blast Iraqi missile base

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN fighter aircraft responded rapidly and in force yesterday when they came under missile attack in the no-fly zone of northern Iraq...

President Saddam Hussein's regime had threatened on Saturday to fire on British and American planes patrolling the northern and southern no-fly zones...

At about 1.30pm local time, at least three surface-to-air missiles were fired at American F16s from a site north of the town of Mosul...

The pilots saw puffs of smoke and swiftly opened fire with Harrier missiles designed to destroy enemy radar...

The episode, the first in the northern no-fly zone for two years, lasted about half an hour...

Officials at the Pentagon also insisted that they were completely confident that their aircraft had come under missile attack...

Washington officials suspect that Saddam has decided that firing on the patrolling aircraft is his way of drawing attention to them...

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communicated from Baghdad claimed that the American aircraft fired first, killing four soldiers and wounding seven...

President Clinton, announcing the attack, said the American pilots took appropriate action after coming under fire from the Iraqi missile battery...

Mr Clinton spoke almost without emotion and there was no sense of crisis in Washington to indicate that a larger response was being planned...

The President's comments were a careful, word-for-word repetition of the Administration's policy on the no-fly zones...

These encroachments on Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty have not been authorised by the Security Council...

Mr Scott Ritter, an American who resigned as a UN weapons inspector in Iraq last August, has accused the chief inspector Richard Butler of manipulating events to provoke American military action against Saddam...

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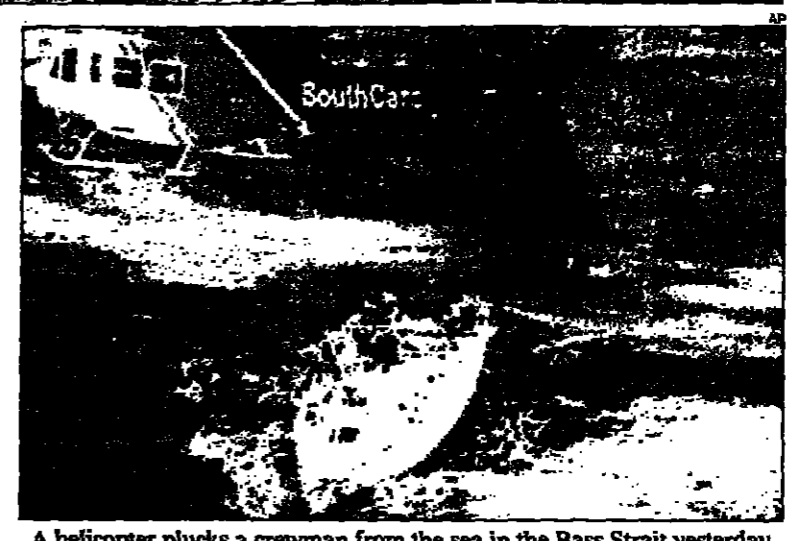
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Richard Winning, skipper of the the sunken yacht Winston Churchill, being brought ashore yesterday



A helicopter plucks a crewman from the sea in the Bass Strait yesterday

Search for British sailor abandoned

BY JOANNA BALE AND EDWARD GORMAN

THE British Olympic sailor feared drowned after going overboard during the Sydney to Hobart yacht race had cancelled plans to spend Christmas with his family...

Rescuers called off the search for Mr Charles yesterday more than 24 hours after he was swept from the Australian yacht Sword of Orion by huge waves near the New South Wales coast...

Two other yachtsmen died and three more are missing after 80mph gales brought the highest death toll in the 54-year history of the race...

The other missing men are all crew members of the Australian sloop the Winston Churchill, which sailed in the inaugural 1944 race...

A spokesman for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said: "The search for Glyn Charles has been called off and his family have been notified of that decision..."

Mr Charles, 33, from Emsworth, Hampshire, was an experienced sailor who had taken part in four Admiral's Cup events...

Hampshire, was an experienced sailor who had taken part in four Admiral's Cup events. He had competed in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and in the 1996 Atlanta Games...

Mr Charles had begun the race from Sydney Harbour along with 115 other yachts on Boxing Day...

He was swept overboard after the Sword of Orion lost her mast and capsized, flinging other crew members into the sea...

A rescue helicopter winched the crew to safety, but Mr Charles was not among them.

Continued on page 3, col 1

Continued on page 3, col 1

Solicitors 'milking legal aid over asylum advice'

BY FRANCES GIBBS AND RICHARD FORD

SEVENTY-SIX firms of solicitors are under investigation amid suspicion that the legal aid fund is being milked by unscrupulous lawyers offering immigration and asylum advice...

The unprecedented Legal Aid Board crackdown comes after the discovery of a rise of several million pounds a year in the legal aid bill for such advice...

The board has sent letters to the law firms - all in the London area and specialising mainly in immigration work...

They have been targeted because their legal aid claims have risen dramatically...

Board officials have demanded details of their work and an explanation for the increase in claims...

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has backed down over a plan to force solicitors to be covered by a new statutory regulation scheme...

Steve Orchard, chief executive, said the board had been tracking figures to see if a pattern emerged...

He said that many of those seeking immigration and asylum advice were "among the most vulnerable"...

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12 Britons seized in Yemen

BY JOANNA BALE

TWELVE Britons were among 16 Western tourists kidnapped by tribesmen in southern Yemen yesterday...

The tourists, who included two Americans and two Australians, were seized when their convoy of five four-wheel-drive vehicles was stopped at a roadblock between Habban and Aden...

But hundreds of non-legally qualified advisers are forced to join a state-run registration system as part of the Home Office attempt to weed out incompetent and unscrupulous people preying on ethnic minority communities...

The compromise represents a victory for Lord Irvine of Lairg and the Law Society, both having strongly opposed the inclusion of solicitors...

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Koestler bust is banished from campus

BY GILHEAN HARRIS SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A BRONZE bust dedicated to the writer and philosopher Arthur Koestler has been removed from the foyer of Edinburgh University after female students complained that it made them feel uneasy...

Students despaired at its removal when a biography by Professor David Cesarani claimed that Koestler beat and raped several women, including Jill Craigie, wife of the former Labour leader, Michael Foot...

Until details of his private life emerged, Koestler enjoyed an unblemished reputation as an intellectual writer. He studied science and psychology in Vienna before becoming a foreign correspondent in the Middle East and Spain...

However, Mr Cesarani's book uncovered a darker side to his character which shows that he drank heavily and was violent towards women...

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Koestler: accused of abusing women

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# Stop feuding, orders Cunningham

### Pressure grows on Chancellor to sack press aide over Mandelson leak, reports Jill Sherman

GORDON BROWN came under increasing pressure yesterday to dismiss his aide Charlie Whelan, after a Cabinet minister said that the Government had been damaged by unauthorised press briefings.

Jack Cunningham, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, urged rival ministers and their aides to halt their feuding and to stop anonymous briefings against each other. As the turmoil over Peter Mandelson's resignation continued, Clive Soley, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, also called for an end to the "settling of old scores".

The opposition parties

seized on the latest evidence of Labour infighting. John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, called on Tony Blair to break off his holiday in the Seychelles to end the "civil war tearing his Government apart".

Dr Cunningham did not name culprits, but said that the stream of briefings and counter-briefings was undermining the Government. "Quite clearly we need to put these matters behind us, and put behind us some of the activities of people who may think they can con-

duct their own agenda on their own account, whether it conflicts with the Government's aims and objectives or not," he told BBC Radio 4's Today.

Dr Cunningham said this state of affairs could not be allowed to continue. "It is not for me to determine which ministers or advisers should go or not — that is a matter for the Prime Minister."

"There have been briefings from time to time which have been damaging to the Government. I am not saying that they are all, or exclusively,

from any one particular source. Unauthorised, anonymous briefings have caused trouble for the Government, are causing trouble, and ought to stop."

Although Dr Cunningham's remarks could have been directed at the Treasury, Downing Street or the Department of Trade and Industry, they were widely interpreted by Blairite sources as an attack on Mr Whelan. The Chancellor's press secretary has been blamed for leaking the information about the £373,000

loan from Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General, to Mr Mandelson.

There has been speculation — but no evidence — that he told Paul Routledge, a journalist writing an unauthorised biography of Mr Mandelson, and that the information leaked from his publisher.

Mr Whelan has consistently denied that he was the source of the story and last night the Chancellor stood by him. "Gordon Brown has full confidence in Charlie Whelan," said a spokesman for the Treasury.

He added that Downing Street had denied reports in some newspapers yesterday that the Prime Minister had urged Mr Brown to get rid of him.

Downing Street, however, refused to be drawn on the reports. There was mounting speculation yesterday that Mr Whelan, who is on holiday in Scotland, would be forced out in the next few weeks.

It is no secret that Treasury officials have been unhappy with the role of Mr Whelan and Ed Balls, Mr Brown's special adviser. Senior figures in

the Treasury feel that Mr Brown relies too heavily on them, often with dire consequences. They argue that much of the trouble that the Chancellor has run into in Europe is because Mr Whelan is out of his depth.

Attention has focused on Mr Whelan's role because of the longstanding feud between the Brown and Mandelson camps. The Chancellor has not forgiven Mr Mandelson for backing Mr Blair, rather than himself, for the Labour leadership.

Libby Purves and Diary, page 16  
Letters, page 17

## Tycoon's cash may get state pupils to Oxford

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

A MILLIONAIRE philanthropist is planning American-style summer schools for up to 1,000 teenagers, which could enable state-educated students at Oxford and Cambridge universities to outnumber those from the independent sector for the first time in almost 20 years.

A quarter of the students from Oxford's first summer school in 1997, won places at the university. The success rate contributed to a 2 per cent increase in the proportion of state-educated entrants at Oxford this summer, while the share at Cambridge declined.

Peter Lampl, the businessman behind plans for a new scholarship scheme in independent schools, has pledged £250,000 to double the places on next year's week-long courses at Oxford and Cambridge. With similar schools running at Bristol and Nottingham universities, the number of students will top 500.

Mr Lampl aims eventually to double the numbers again if he can find a sponsor to bear part of the £500,000 cost. The extra 250 state-educated entrants he expects the initiative to produce would tip the politically sensitive balance between entrants from state and independent schools.

Admissions figures, published this month, showed 43.8 per cent of this year's Oxford entrants were from the state sector and 47.3 per cent from independent schools. While state-educated students already outnumbered those from independent schools at Cambridge, the gap narrowed to 1 per cent this year.

Between the two universities, 132 more places went to applicants from the independent sector than the state system. Next year's expanded courses could tip the balance.

Sixteen of the 64 students, mainly from comprehensive schools, who attended the 1997 course at Oxford are now taking degrees at the university. The Sutton Trust, the charity established by Mr Lampl, is hoping for a similar success rate from the 190 students who went to Oxford or Cambridge this summer.

Mr Lampl, who made a fortune in business in Germany and the United States, began the schemes after being shocked by changes he found at Oxford on a return visit to his alma mater. The state school majority of his years in the 1960s had gone. "Oxford had again become something of a finishing school for the rich," he writes in an article to be published in Prospect magazine.

## Straw plans a ceiling on referendum spending

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND PETER RIDDELL

THE Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has backed the imposition of an upper limit on campaign spending for referendums in a move that will worry opponents of the European single currency.

In an interview with The Times today, Mr Straw indicated that the Government's Bill on party funding would contain a limit on general election and referendum campaigns. The report into election spending by Lord Neill of Bladen made no mention of a limit on referendum spending.

Mr Straw said: "If there is a case for putting a cap on national spending in elections, I cannot see how the argument does not apply equally to referendums." He gave no indication of what the limit might be, although other government sources have suggested about £5 million.

That would please the pro-single currency campaign, which has made no secret of its difficulties in raising substantial finance. It will, however, upset the anti-euro campaign, which appears to have access to far greater resources, with the Yorkshire businessmen Paul Sykes already pledged to provide up to £20 million. Mr Straw will publish the Bill within the next few months.

The Home Secretary also discloses that a powerful body designed to promote a new spirit of civic duty in Britain is to spearhead a drive to raise the low level of turnout in election. He is preparing to announce that the objectives of the proposed election commis-

sion will include raising awareness of the political process and overcoming the lack of interest and cynicism.

Mr Straw wants to broaden the role of the proposed commission to become involved in promoting the idea of good citizenship, including encouraging people to vote and showing them why it is worthwhile to do so. Voting at weekends, casting votes in places other than polling stations, such as supermarkets, removing all restrictions on absentee voting, and improving registration of voters will be considered.

The Home Secretary has decided to act after new figures showed that Britain had the lowest turnout or equal lowest turnout among the major West European countries. It came 65th in a survey of 163 countries. His main target will be local elections, in which the turnout in Britain is about 40 per cent.

Mr Straw, who is to publish his proposals for implementing the Neill report in a draft Bill before next summer's parliamentary recess, told The Times that he was keen on the election commission and on extending its role beyond that foreseen by the report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. He wanted it to act as a "proselytising body" for the idea of citizenship.

"Education for citizenship has gone backwards. When I was at school we had civics lessons," he said, recalling that he won a civics prize in the third form.

Citizen Straw, page 6



Skiers queue for the chairlift at the Cairngorm Ski Centre yesterday. There will be more snow in the Highlands today and it will again be very windy

## Storm-lashed areas face more gales

By TIM JONES AND AUDREY MAGEE

AS HOUSEHOLDERS in Britain and the Republic of Ireland cleared up yesterday after the savage weekend storms, they were given warnings to prepare for more gale-force winds, which are expected to affect large areas today.

Although not forecast to be as severe as the 100mph gusts that claimed six lives, wrecked buildings and left thousands without electricity, the winds today could damage homes and structures weakened by the previous onslaught.

Weather forecasters said that wind speeds could reach 70mph over North-

ern Ireland, South Wales and Cornwall, well into this evening.

At the weekend, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic suffered the worst storms for 30 years, with 200,000 homes blacked out as electricity poles and wires were downed. Last night, 40,000 homes in the Province and the Republic were still without power. Electricity companies said that it would take until Friday to restore power to some remote areas.

In Scotland, 5,000 people were still without power last night after 20,000 customers were re-connected. South-west Scotland was worst affected by the weekend storms.

Alasdair Morgan, MP for Galloway

and Upper Nithsdale, said yesterday that he would be complaining to ScottishPower after being unable to get through to the company's 24-hour emergency helpline. "I shall be asking questions of ScottishPower to make sure that similar problems do not occur the next time we have such severe weather," he said.

ScottishPower received more than 500,000 calls in 24 hours over the weekend. It has pledged to pay £50 to every customer who was without power for more than 24 hours. "We were on stand-by but we weren't ready for the east to west, north to south extent of the damage," said Alan Richardson, the company's managing director of

power systems. "We've got 700 incidents to deal with and each one of them is typically a tree on the line."

Scottish Hydro-Electric said it had around 1,000 households without electricity. All were expected to be reconnected by this morning.

Across the border in Carlisle and Kendal, Norweb drafted in linemen from other companies to restore light and power to about 6,000 households. At the height of the storm, 65,000 homes had been cut off. The company said: "The men have been brilliant as they have had to contend with driving sleet and snow."

Forecast, page 20

## Irvine admits Pinochet case was damaging

By MARK INGLEFIELD  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE law lords' turmoil over the Pinochet case brought the British legal system into disrepute, the Lord Chancellor said yesterday.

New procedures were needed, Lord Irvine of Lairg said, to prevent a repeat of the setting aside of the law lords' ruling that the former Chilean dictator was not immune — as a former head of state — from extradition proceedings.

A second panel of law lords ruled that the case had to be re-heard after it emerged that one of the original panel, Lord Hoffmann, had links to Amnesty International, which had been campaigning for General Pinochet's extradition to Spain.

"It is in the highest degree unfortunate, because it does have a tendency to bring the legal system into disrepute," Lord Irvine said on Radio 4's Today.

"This was litigation where the eyes of the world were and are upon us. But what is necessary is not to cry over spilt milk, but to see that procedures are put in place to ensure that this does not happen again."

In future, Lord Irvine said, panels of law lords assembled to hear an appeal should meet to consider whether the presence of any of them could give the appearance of a conflict of interest. If this were the case, the chairman of the panel should ensure that the law lord concerned did not sit.

The controversy over the Pinochet hearings has also led Lord Irvine to consider opening up the appointment of judg-



Irvine said eyes of the world were on Britain

es to public scrutiny. The Home Secretary is understood to have welcomed indications that Lord Irvine is preparing to look again at the creation of a judicial appointments commission, with lay people as members, to select candidates. At present law lords are appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister. In an interview last week Lord Irvine, who put the idea firmly on the backburner a year ago, suggested that he might put the proposal out for consultation.

Although he remains sceptical about change, he has admitted that, when the Human Rights Act comes into operation in 2000, the judiciary will regularly make rulings on politically sensitive matters.

Ministers say that the current system, under which judges are appointed after confidential soundings are taken by officials from judges and the legal profession generally, is no longer acceptable in a "modernised" Britain.

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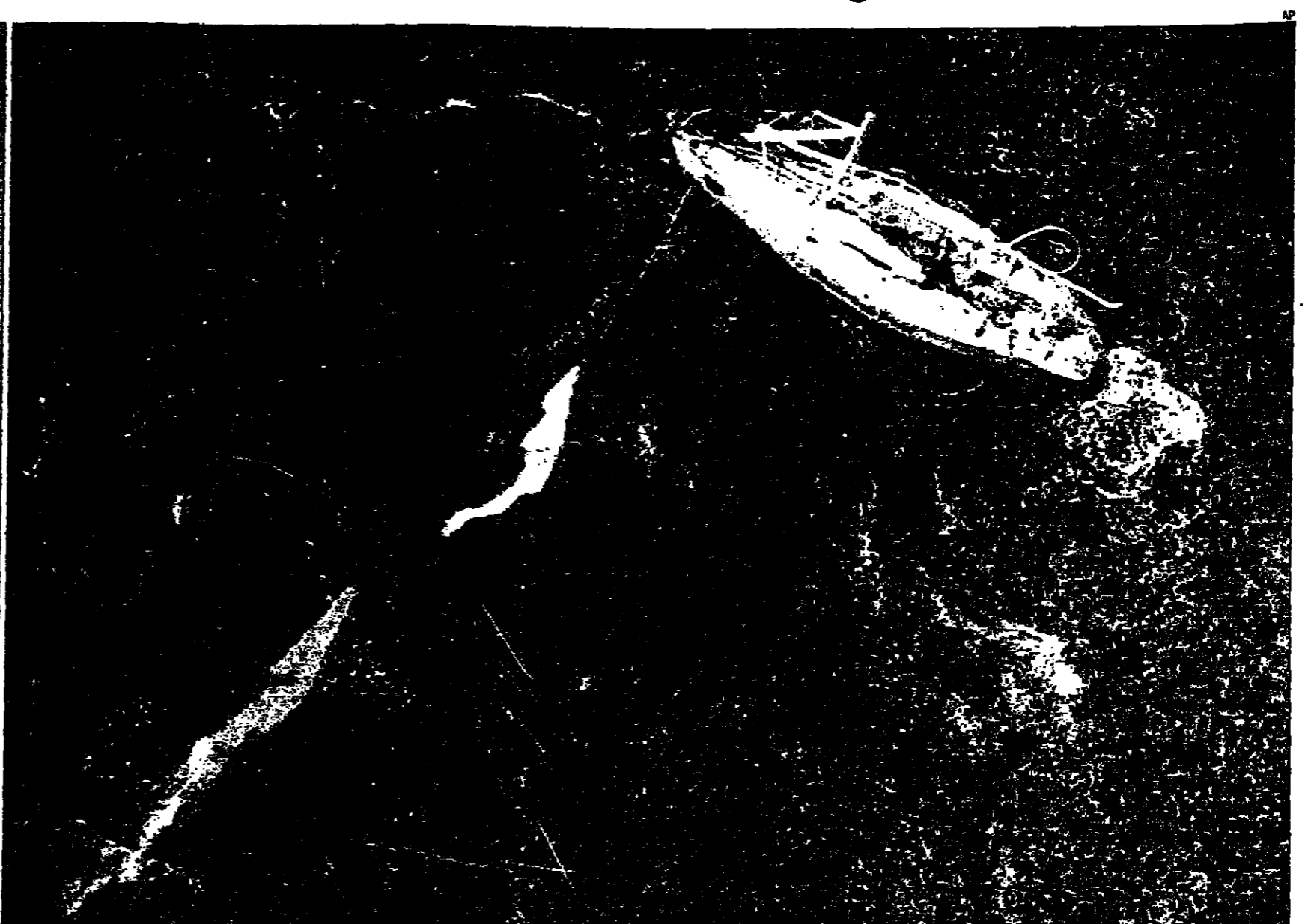
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FIT THE BEST

# He died doing what he loved, says mother



Glyn Charles, who is thought to have been swept from the cockpit of the *Sword of Orion* when the boat was overturned by a wave. Right, the stricken *Business Post Naiad*, which rolled over twice, killing its skipper and a crewman



The mother of Glyn Charles, the British Olympic yachtsman feared drowned in the Sydney to Hobart race, yesterday recalled the last words she spoke to her only son on Christmas Eve.

"He phoned to say he was setting off in a few hours. He felt it was an opportunity. I always said if something happened to Glyn at sea, I'd feel that he was doing what he loved."

Mrs Charles, speaking from her home near Shaftesbury, said that her son had been in Australia doing some race training with other British sailors and had originally planned to be home to spend Christmas with her in Dorset.

However, he had phoned two days before Christmas to say that he had been asked to take part in the race on the 47ft yacht, *Sword of*

## Missing yachtsman had burnt with ambition to win Olympic glory in sailing, writes Edward Gorman

*Orion* and had decided to cancel his flight. "He asked me if it was OK and I told him 'Of course it is'. We used to talk about things like this. I used to say I was not worried about him sailing.

"Now that something like this has happened it is a bit different. But it is some comfort that if he is dead, it happened while he was sailing rather than in a road accident or something like that."

Minutes after hearing that the search had been called off, Mrs Charles said that she had been told there was no chance of finding her son alive. Mr Charles, 33, a talented helmsman from Emsworth in Hampshire, who represented Great Britain at the last Olympics in the

Star class where he finished 11th, is thought to have been swept from the cockpit of *Sword of Orion* when the boat was rolled through 360 degrees by a huge wave. When the hull righted itself, Mr Charles was no longer on board and it appears that the safety harness he was wearing broke away from the boat.

The yacht, skippered by Steve Kulmar and owned by Bob Kothe, had already retired from the race and was heading for shelter at Eden on the New South Wales coast when the accident happened. She was later abandoned in the Bass Strait and the remaining crew, including one with a broken leg, were airlifted to safety.

Mr Charles's death is the second

tragedy to hit his family in recent years. His father died several years ago after he fell off a roof in Spain. Mr Charles, who was unmarried but had a long-term girlfriend, was one of two children — his sister Merrion lives in France — and he went to school in Winchester, then to Portsmouth Polytechnic.

From childhood his ambition was to sail in the Olympics and, after joining the Royal Yachting Association Youth Squad, he became national champion in the highly competitive Laser class when he was 21.

He then moved to bigger boats and sailed four times in the Fastnet and the Admiral's Cup, representing Britain in 1995 but also sailing for Norway and Australia in other

years. His Olympic career took longer to take off as he struggled to overcome the talents of Lawrie Smith, who beat him in successive national trials in 1988 and 1992. Mr Charles finally overcame his old adversary to take the Star class team place at the last Olympics at Atlanta, the same year in which he finished fifth in the Bacardi Cup at Miami, one of the biggest Star class regattas of the year.

Mr Charles was a temperamental individual who never quite fulfilled his early potential, yet his future looked bright with another Olympic campaign already under way. "For me he was getting better and better all the time," Rod Carr, the RYA racing manager, said.

"Glyn was a pretty tightly strung individual but as he got older he was better able to see the wood for the trees and he was looking a stronger chance for a medal at the next games than the last."

Mrs Charles said her son had burnt with ambition to win Olympic glory in sailing: as a child he had written about it all over his satchel. "He'd been battling along against all sorts of odds in recent years in a profession which is not very easy," she said. "I think he was much more together now, not just sailing-wise but in his temperament too."

Friends said Mr Charles had spoken to his girlfriend, Annie Goodman, about competing and she had

given her blessing. Miss Goodman, 35, a marketing executive at the London accountancy firm Price Waterhouse Coopers, was last night being comforted by friends at the marina home overlooking the Solent that the couple shared in Emsworth, near Portsmouth.

In a statement released later through the Royal Yachting Association Mrs Charles said: "Glyn has been dedicated to sailing since a small boy and it was wonderful that he achieved his great ambition by competing in the 1996 Olympics. We shall miss him terribly and his great enthusiasm about everything.

"He was a wonderful son and a loyal and supportive brother to his sister, Merrion, as well as being devoted to his girlfriend Annie."

Robin Knox-Johnston, page 16

# Survivors tell of ordeal in a 'hell on high water'

Roger Maynard talks to rescued crewmen who fought for their lives in the fearsome storm

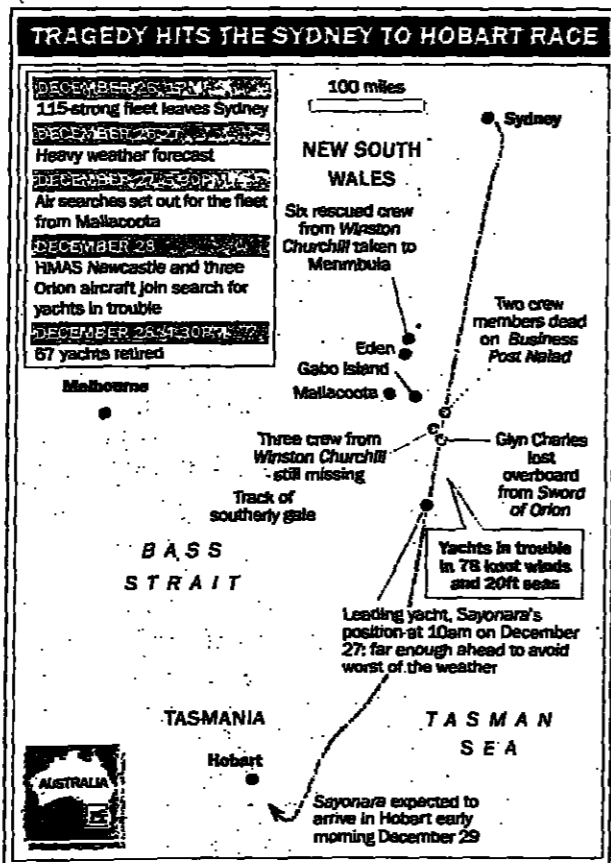
IN TERMS of adventure and human endurance, the Sydney to Hobart race is Australia's Everest of sailing. For 54 years it has captured the imagination of yachtsmen from all over the world. Yet, despite its reputation for treacherous weather, the blue-water classic has claimed only two lives until now.

Yesterday survivors described the appalling conditions that forced half the 115 vessels to retire or seek shelter. Veterans of the race said that they had never known wind or seas as fearsome.

"It was the worst conditions I have ever seen in 35 years. It was horrendous," said Geoff Boettcher, skipper of *Secret Men's Business*, which limped into the New South Wales fishing port of Eden yesterday morning.

"You would get hit once and think, 'Hell, I don't want to do that again in my life.' We were getting five, six, maybe seven-metre waves breaking on the top and that's roll-over material."

What caused the disastrous late change in the weather was an intense low pressure system that developed south-



east of the Australian mainland. With a strong wind blowing north up the coast and a fierce current running south, the sea conditions were terrible. They combined to produce waves as high as a two-storey house.

Skipper's were warned of a southerly change at their pre-race briefing on Christmas Eve, but it struck later than

abandoned yacht *Stand Aside* resembled a broken toy with its mast and half its cabin torn away. "We did a 360-degree roll and when we came up the mast was gone," he said.

His fellow crewman Simon Clark said he thought that he would not survive when the waves ripped open the yacht and threw him and seven others into the water. "The boat filled with water and we couldn't start the engine or anything, so we were basically helpless." Eventually all 12 crew were rescued, some with severed fingers and head injuries.

Another survivor, Kevin Lacey, from the yacht *Inkeeper*, which was also forced to retire damaged, said it was a fight to stay alive. "You get what you call square waves and you bounce off the top of them and there's nothing underneath. The boat just drops three, four or five metres — it's just like going over a speed hump that's 3ft high and you're doing 90 miles an hour."

Last night the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia promised to hold an inquiry as soon as possible. Peter Campbell, the club's media director, said that the event would have been delayed if race officials had known what was to confront the fleet.

But the reality is that the race is a Christmas institution in Australia, attracting thousands to Sydney Harbour to see the yachts depart. The organisers would have been aware that to have postponed it on such a bright, warm and beautiful day would have disappointed them as well as millions of television viewers.

## Search for yachtsman called off

Continued from page 1

Charles, who was believed to have been wearing a safety harness, could not be found. The two confirmed dead were Bruce Guy, skipper of the Australian yacht the *Business Post Naiad*, who died of heart failure after the vessel rolled twice in the heavy storms, and his crewman Phil Skeggs, a first-time participant in the race who drowned as he sat strapped to a safety harness on the yacht. Both men were from Tasmania.

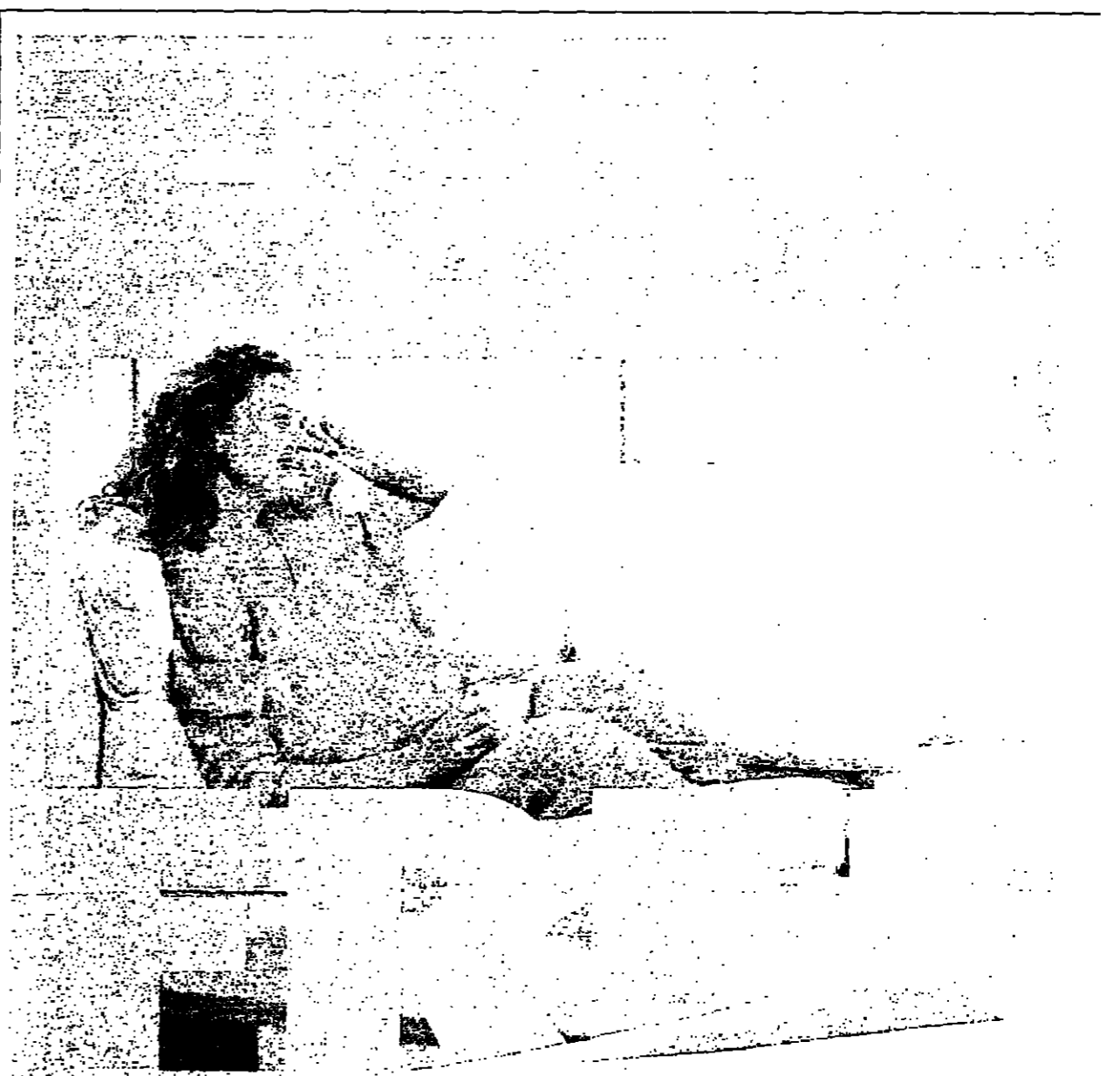
The annual Sydney to Hobart race is

one of the three old ocean-racing classics. Like the other two, the Fastnet Race and the Newport-Bermuda Race, the temperate climate in which it is sailed can throw up severe weather that can quickly turn it into an exercise in survival — but none of the three delays their start in the event of bad weather. If dangerous conditions do develop, there is a high probability of disaster striking somewhere because of the sheer size of the fleets.

Yesterday a spokesman for the race organisers said: "This race has been known

for its unpredictable weather, particularly in the Bass Strait. There will obviously be inquiries into the deaths but I don't think there could be any criticism of allowing the race to continue."

Sir Edward Heath, who won the race in 1969 with his yacht *Morning Glory*, defended the organisers. He said: "I feel very sad that these people have lost their lives. The conditions in this year's race sound much the same as they were in 1969 and we carried on then. I would probably have carried on this year, too."



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# Graves are new cash crop on farm

Farmer predicts that woods could become the cemeteries of the 21st century, reports Michael Hornsby

AN ENTERPRISING farmer is creating a woodland graveyard on what was once featureless arable land. On the southern side of the Stour estuary in Essex is a nature reserve dotted with broadleaf trees, each of which marks a grave.

The site helps John Acton, of Wrabness Hall Farm, to make a living even though his land is bare of crops and livestock. It also helps the environment while giving an alternative to costly religious funerals.

Mr Acton runs the seven-acre Oakfield Wood site jointly with the Essex Wildlife Trust, to which he has transferred ownership of the land. "These will be the cemeteries of the 21st century," he said. "For a very competitive price you get a guarantee of a grave that will never be disturbed and the satisfaction of helping to create a beautiful landscape where people can walk and enjoy the trees and flowers."

Peter Kincaid, a director with Mr Acton of Green Woodland Burial Services, said: "We have buried more than 200 people at Oakfield Wood in the 2½ years since it opened. We have just acquired another site, of 18 acres, also on former farmland, near Guildford, and are awaiting planning consent. We hope Surrey Wildlife Trust will take an interest."

Burial at Oakfield costs about £850. This includes collection of the body, the purchase of a biodegradable chip-board coffin with rope handles, digging of the grave and the planting of a tree at the site. Only oak, ash, field maple, black poplar, wild service, hornbeam and silver birch are permitted. They are scattered about the land.

No gravestones are allowed, only a simple wooden plaque set into the ground with the name and dates of birth and death of the deceased. The plaques eventually rot away but the position of each grave is recorded in a register.

The cost of burial in crowded London cemeteries ranges from £600 to more than £2,000, depending on the borough. Graves may be moved to make way for new development and many municipal cemeteries save space by stacking bodies on top of each other in family plots.

The Home Office is discussing with councils the possibility of opening 100-year-old graves and reintering the remains deeper underground to make room for new arrivals.

Mr Acton's farm covers no more than 120 acres, too small to be viable as an agricultural enterprise. This year he expects to make a profit of £22,000 without growing crops or rearing livestock.

About £8,000 will come from his share of the burial fees at Oakfield Wood and the rest from grants that he receives under the European Union's set-aside scheme and for managing the land as wildlife habitat.

The Essex Wildlife Trust receives £15 per burial. "This goes into a fund that will be used to manage the reserve in perpetuity once burials come to an end in 15 to 20 years," Graham Game, the trust's development manager, said. It is expected that the site will hold about 4,000 graves.

A conventional religious ceremony can be arranged at the graveside for those who wish it but mourners are also free, within reason, to devise their own send-offs for loved ones.

"There was an upsurge of interest after the Princess of Wales died and was buried at Althorp," Mr Game said.

"That increased public awareness that you do not have to be interred in consecrated ground."

Roger Moody buried his brother Peter, 59, who had Down's syndrome, at Oakfield Wood last May. "Neither I nor his friends wanted the rigmarole of a conventional funeral," he said.

"We did just about everything ourselves bar digging the hole. One friend made the coffin, another wrapped his body in a burial sheet at the hospital and brought it to the site. We lowered the coffin into the grave, along with some of his belongings, including a baseball cap and his favourite slippers."

"Someone brought a CD player and we all helped to fill the grave with earth, to the accompaniment of Richard Strauss's *Four Last Songs*."

"At exactly the moment when the singer reached the words 'Two skylarks soar above us, let us draw close together, soon it will be time to sleep', two skylarks did appear on the right overhead."

Leading article, page 17



John Acton plants a broadleaf sapling at each grave, creating a wood on the bare fields above the River Stour. The total cost of a funeral is about £850

## Golden oldies knocked off top of charts

By Claudia Joseph

A NEW generation of bands has ousted the golden oldies in a chart of favourite pop songs, voted for by celebrities and Radio 1 listeners.

Groups such as Massive Attack, Nirvana, The Verve, Underworld and Radiohead saw off the Beatles and Elton John to top the list of best-loved tunes.

The 100 National Anthems, aired yesterday, were compiled after listeners voted for their three favourite songs. Cher, Bono of U2 and members of REM and B\*Witched added their votes.

Massive Attack's *Unfinished Sympathy* was top of the chart, followed by songs from Nirvana, The Verve, Underworld and Radiohead. Oasis had nine songs in the chart. Radiohead had six and REM three.

Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* and John Lennon's *Imagine* were the only oldies to make the top 20. Led Zeppelin's *Stairway to Heaven* failed to reach the top 100 and the Beatles were nowhere to be seen.

Madonna reached only No 71 and the Spice Girls, who scooped the Christmas No 1 with *Goodbye*, were at No 76 with *Wannabe*. George Michael squeezed in at No 99.

Radio 1 said it was surprised as anyone by the result, although most of its listeners are aged between 15 and 24. A spokesman said that the *National Anthems* added a fresh twist to more traditional lists of favourites.

Scott Mills, the DJ who co-presented the chart, said: "Radio 1's *National Anthems* is the choice of a new generation of pop fans, much more representative of the UK's musical taste as we approach the new millennium."

- 1 Massive Attack — *Unfinished Sympathy*
- 2 Nirvana — *Smells Like Teen Spirit*
- 3 The Verve — *Bitter Sweet Symphony*
- 4 Underworld — *Born Slippy*
- 5 Radiohead — *Creep*
- 6 REM — *Everybody Hates 7 U2* — *With Or Without You*
- 8 John Lennon — *Imagine*
- 9 Oasis — *Live Forever*
- 10 Stardust — *Music Sounds Better With You*
- 11 Oasis — *The Masterplan*
- 12 Robbie Williams — *Angels*
- 13 James — *Sit Down*
- 14 Manic Street Preachers — *Design for Life*
- 15 Blur — *Song 2*
- 16 Pulp — *Common People*
- 17 Radiohead — *Street Spirit*
- 18 Queen — *Bohemian Rhapsody*
- 19 Green Day — *Basket Case*
- 20 REM — *Losing My Religion*

## Royalty misses out in millennium poll

By Claudia Joseph

WOMEN and royalty are absent from the contenders for the title of British personality of the millennium. Men of science and of letters dominate the all-male shortlist of six voted for by listeners of the Radio 4 programme *Today*.

The highest-ranking woman in the poll is Elizabeth I, in 11th place. Philosophers and social reformers are also absent from the shortlist, from which the overall winner will be selected on New Year's Day.

Peter Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, the footballer, Eric Cantona and the Muppets character Miss Piggy polled votes, but fell far short of a place on the shortlist.

The six contenders for Britain's personality of the millennium are William Cavton, William Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Winston Churchill.

Rod Liddell, Editor of *Today*, believes that the final winner will be Shakespeare or Darwin.

"I'm surprised the list is monarch-free and Britain's military past is not more strongly represented," he said. "If we had done the poll 30 years ago, we would have seen it dominated by people like Churchill, Cromwell, Wellington and Nelson. I am also surprised that Elizabeth I didn't do better."

"However, the list is only meant to be fun. It just gives a snapshot of who in Britain we think is important and what we think of our past."

The shortlist was drawn up by the producers after more than 15,000 listeners telephoned, wrote and e-mailed with their suggestions.

The winner will be announced on New Year's Day after listeners have voted on one of six dedicated hotlines. The lines opened at 6am today and will close at 6pm tomorrow.

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"The more powers are devolved to parts of Britain, the greater the need for a strong, small centre"

# Citizen Straw's eye is on the constitution

BRITAIN is going through the "most intensive programme of constitutional change since 1689" when the sovereignty of Parliament was firmly established. This bold claim is made by Jack Straw, who, as Home Secretary, is not just responsible for police, the prisons and immigration, but has become, in effect, the minister for the constitution in the Commons, matching Lord Irvine of Lairg in the Lords.

As such, Mr Straw has a crucial say over some of the biggest and most controversial issues on the constitutional agenda — the future of the House of Lords, freedom of information, whether to change the voting system for the Commons, the conduct of referendums and the Neill report on party funding.

Mr Straw argues that these proposals — plus the ten constitutional Bills that have already become law — form part of a coherent overall strategy. The purpose is to "strengthen citizenship in this country and people's sense of citizenship". Britain, he says, has a less developed sense of being a citizen than virtually any other country. Some — in the Americas, Africa and the Indian subcontinent — have been colonies, while others, in continental Europe, have been through convulsions and conquest.

Talking to *The Times* just before Christmas, Mr Straw defended the piecemeal nature of the programme. That was the way it should be done in a parliamentary democracy — on a "case-by-case basis". Otherwise, we would have to have a

**Peter Riddell and Philip Webster speak to the Home Secretary on the state of change**

huge Government of Britain Bill, five volumes long, that might contain flaws and could not be properly scrutinised.

Devolution, he says, has been carefully calibrated to match the degree of change to the particular circumstances. The degree of devolution has been greatest in Scotland, where popular support for it is greatest and where there has been a separate system of government for more than a century. The changes are smaller in Wales and England.

Mr Straw favours an organic system of development in England, starting with regional chambers and elected mayors in the big cities — like Joseph Chamberlain in Birmingham in the 1870s — though legislation on these has been put back until later in this Parliament. Moreover, "the more powers are devolved to parts of Britain and to citizens, the greater the need for a strong, small centre".

The other changes are intended "to shift the balance between the individual and the State", via the Human Rights Act (seen by Mr Straw as most important of all the measures)

and the Data Protection Act, with the promised legislation on freedom of information.

Mr Straw has always been seen in Whitehall as a conservative on this issue and campaigners for greater openness were worried when the Home Office took over responsibility from the Cabinet Office for drafting the long-promised Bill after the July reshuffle. Responding to these criticisms, he immediately reeled off a long list of initiatives the Home Office has already taken, from ensuring that ministers are not involved in the publication of statistics to the disclosure of the draft guidance to officials on handling immigration and naturalisation.

The White Paper is now being refined into the more precise definitions of a draft Bill due in the new year. This, he concedes, involves assuring that some information has to be protected. Consequently, the details of the "harm" test, defining what information can be disclosed, are being re-examined, though he declines to say exactly how yet.

The other main constitutional measure for which Mr Straw is directly responsible is the promised Bill on party funding following October's Neill committee report. He supports the report's main conclusions, but wants to go further. He would like to expand the remit of the proposed election commission beyond oversight of elections, registration of parties and their financial accounts. In addition, he would like it to "act as proselytising body for citizenship, explaining what citizenship means in a non-partisan way".



Jack Straw at the Home Office. He says the people of Britain have a less developed sense of citizenship than those of virtually any other country

Moreover, Mr Straw emphasises that referendums are not like general elections since they take place during the course of governments. So ministers must be able to consult civil servants on questions of economic management. Arrangements must take account of these realities. For instance, in any referendum on a single currency, "ministers would have to be advised about market movements and act on them".

Mr Straw, a backer of the No camp in 1975, characteristically has copies of the leaflets in that campaign to hand. He agrees that there ought to be an even field in a referendum. But "the Government should be able to put out a White Paper explaining it proposed a referendum ahead of the necessary legislation". He agrees that the Govern-

ment should not spend money supporting one side when the campaign has started (after legislation has been passed) and should not then distribute literature.

He regards as anomalous, however, the Neill proposal that there should be caps on national spending by parties in election campaigns but not in referendums. Although formal decisions have not yet been taken, he cannot see why such caps on spending should not apply in referendums.

Later in the day of our interview, Mr Straw was due to attend the ministerial committee examining the draft White Paper on the House of Lords due to be published early in the year. He confirmed the desire to move on as quickly as possible with the royal commission, which would have a

right timetable. The Government would, he said, make clear its desire for "a more representative and democratic chamber. But such a second chamber will really only work if it is acknowledged that the first chamber is the pre-eminent one."

The commission would have to look at the balance struck between the appointed and democratic elements, and how they might be elected. Also, he accepted that the powers of the second chamber would have to be re-examined. "Any likely body with a greater degree of legitimacy, more democratic and more representative, would exercise more of its theoretical powers."

There have been suggestions that a longer-term plan for the future of the Lords might be included in a referen-

dum along with proposals to change the voting system for the Commons following the recommendations of the Jenkins Commission. Mr Straw has made no secret of his doubts about the Jenkins plan, much to the annoyance of Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader. Mr Straw concedes the speculation about a double question referendum and says, with a smile, that "there would, of course, have to be two questions, one for the Lords and one for the Commons."

This would open the possibility of a yes/no vote, though Mr Straw is too discreet to say so publicly. After all, constitutional reform is not just for the lawyers. It is an intensely political exercise, as it was in 1689 — and Mr Straw is, first and foremost, a skilful politician.

## Alarm over big rise in child prostitution

By RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

MEN who control or use child prostitutes are to be the targets of a police campaign announced by the Government today.

Latest Home Office figures show that the number of children convicted of soliciting increased from 101 to 177 in 1995-96. The 75 per cent increase, and a case involving an 11-year-old girl cautioned for an offence linked to

prostitution, have highlighted the extent of the problem in England and Wales.

A police pilot project in Wolverhampton, where children involved in prostitution were treated as victims of abuse, has found that the number of youngsters involved was much greater than had been thought.

Government guidelines published today say that children under 18 are to be treated as victims of crime rather than offenders. Although prostitu-

tion and soliciting by children will remain an offence, the expected effect of the guidelines will be an end to the use of the criminal law against boys and girls involved in prostitution.

Paul Boateng, a Home Office minister, said: "Pimps and abusers identify children who are vulnerable and force them into prostitution for their own gains. These children are utterly desperate, they are not making a free economic or moral choice."

But the Government has rejected

calls to decriminalise child prostitution. Mr Boateng said: "The criminal law plays an important role in establishing society's view that prostitution is not welcome, nor is it acceptable for children to be involved."

In 1996 there were 288 cautions and 177 convictions of girls under 18 for soliciting and six cautions of boys, according to Home Office figures.

The project in Wolverhampton and another in Nottingham showed that in the 12 months to August 1998, 22

men and three women were prosecuted for serious sexual offences involving children. Offences included rape, unlawful imprisonment and living off immoral earnings.

Jan Sparks, chief executive of The Children's Society, said: "More police forces around the country have taken a more enlightened approach towards children on the streets, so the figures are a real shock to us. The fact that an 11-year-old child has been cautioned is beyond belief."



Boateng: protection for "desperate victims"

## Gene clue to curing ovarian cancer

By NIGEL HAWKES

A NEW clue to the development of cancer of the ovary has been found by scientists in California and Texas.

They have discovered that ovarian tumours contain multiple copies of a gene involved in cell proliferation. As a result, these cells are overproduced with a protein, PIK3CA, which encourages growth of cells and inhibits the natural process of cell death.

Cells containing the multiple copies grow uncontrollably, forming a tumour. The team, led by Laleh Shayesteh, of the University of California at San Francisco, also show that, if the activity of the overactive gene is inhibited, cells return to near-normal behaviour.

The findings, published in *Nature Genetics*, suggest new drug strategies for treating ovarian cancer by blocking the gene. This might be done by producing antibodies against the growth protein and using them together with normal chemotherapy.

A new breast cancer drug, Herceptin, which was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in September, works on this principle. Trials have shown that it can slow the progress of breast cancer in women who produce too much of a growth factor receptor called HER2.

Ovarian cancer is the fifth commonest cancer in women, with about 5,000 cases diagnosed every year in Britain.

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## Rats may hold key to diabetes

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITISH scientists have identified a gene responsible for a common condition linked to obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease.

People who have the condition, insulin resistance, respond poorly to insulin and have high levels of fats in their bloodstreams. The syndrome is found in 40 per cent of those who develop heart disease at an early age.

A team at the Medical Research Council's Clinical Sciences Centre at Hammersmith Hospital, working in collaboration with others in Prague, New York and California, used rats with a similar condition to model the human disease.

Using a new technique which can pinpoint one gene among many, they have found that, in the rat, the defective gene is one responsible for carrying fatty acids into the cell. The gene, called Cd36, is so damaged in the

rats that it is incapable of making a protein that works.

Reporting in the journal *Nature Genetics*, Timothy Aitman and his colleagues said that rats genetically engineered with extra Cd36 had lower levels of fats in their bloodstream, confirming that the gene is responsible for controlling fat metabolism.

"The biological plausibility of this gene suggests that a deficiency in Cd36 may play an important part in human insulin-resistance syndromes," they concluded.

The finding is important because in the past it has been difficult to tease out the genetic causes of diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, or schizophrenia, in which several different genes are likely to play a part.

The technique has much potential for finding the genetic causes of complex diseases and, indirectly, better ways of treating or preventing them.

## Baby sent home with meningitis

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE parents of an 11-month-old girl who died from meningitis hours after doctors had diagnosed an ear infection and sent her home have called for an inquiry.

Charmaine Murphy, of Consett, died on December 17 at Dryburn Hospital, Durham. Catherine and Peter Murphy had taken her there the night before with a temperature. Doctors said that an ear infection was causing her heart to race.

North Durham Acute Hospitals NHS Trust said an internal review had found that the accident and emergency department behaved "appropriately and properly".

Mrs Murphy said the family wanted to know why meningitis had not been diagnosed when her baby was first taken to hospital. Charmaine died shortly after being taken back to hospital.

## Back strain and RSI 'neglected'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BACK injury and repetitive strain injury, the most common work-related disorders, cost the economy more than £2 billion a year with a total of more than a third of a million sufferers and 10 million working days lost.

A survey of 500 workplaces, published today by the TUC, shows that back strain and RSI are increasing fastest in the North West, and also rising in the South East and North East. While the majority of cases are found in the manufacturing sector, both conditions are becoming especially common among those working in education and RSI is widespread among local government officers.

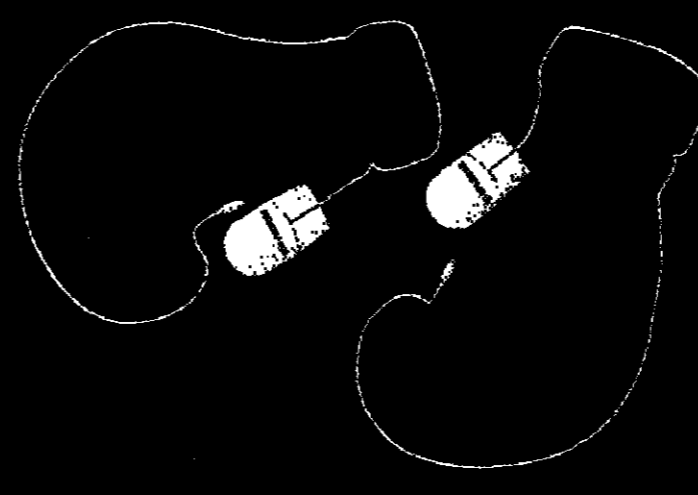
The TUC found that employers generally took back strain more seriously than RSI but gave neither condition a high priority. Only 17 per cent of firms had bothered to calculate the cost of back strain and only 11 per cent had

calculated losses attributable to RSI. Less than a third (31 per cent) of employers provided treatment or rehabilitation for workers laid off with back strain. Only 22 per cent of those with RSI were offered physiotherapy.

On the basis of the survey, the TUC is to press the Government to conduct a campaign against conditions that cause back strain at work. It is also calling on the Health and Safety Executive to do more to make employers assess the risk of RSI.

"Employers have a legal and moral responsibility to prevent RSI and back strain," John Monks, the TUC general secretary, said. "They also have a financial responsibility to their firms and our research suggests they don't even know how much this back strain epidemic is costing them. If they knew the truth, I am sure they would want to do something about it."

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# £100m shortfall hits celebration plans

BY MARK HENDERSON

WITH just 12 months to go until the millennium, Britain's biggest celebration projects are still more than £100 million short of funding targets.

The Millennium Dome in Greenwich needs another £30 million to reach its private investment target of £150 million, with several of its themed zones still without a sponsor.

The 28 "landmark" projects receiving grants of more than £15 million are still looking for a further £74 million. Only three have already covered their costs, and several have been scaled down or are now being built in stages. A further £12 million is also needed to

complete smaller projects, such as reworking village halls.

The shortfall, however, is much smaller than it was in August, when £330 million was still to be found. The Millennium Commission is confident that most of the money will be raised comfortably.

No project has yet put back its opening date, though several were never expected to be ready until late 2000 or 2001, and organisers — such as the Cardiff Millennium Stadium, which is needed for the autumn 1999 Rugby World Cup — will open on time. A spokes-



man for the Millennium Commission said: "Money still needs to be found, but a lot of progress has been made. Nothing should be delayed."

Millennium projects qualify for grants from the commission of up to half their overall costs, but must raise matching funds from sources such as private business, local authorities or the European Union before they get the money. Three landmark schemes — the Millenni-

um Cycle Route, the Millennium Link's Forth & Clyde and Union Canals, and the Groundwork urban renewal project — have already secured all their funds. Several more, such as the redevelopment of the Hampden Park stadium in Glasgow and the University of the Highlands and Islands, are close.

Others, though, are in more trouble. The Earth Centre in Doncaster will still be the first

landmark to open to the public on April 2 1999, but visitors will be able to visit only its £42-million first phase.

The centre will explore environmental themes ranging from the Big Bang to modern pollution. More than half of the original blueprint, however, will not be there. A 28-metre tower will be left until April 2000, and The Ark, a huge greenhouse with rainforest and desert zones, will open later still. Those two stages will cost at least £46 million, and the project has still to raise more than £20 million before it can get its full grant.

Other schemes, including The Deep marine centre in Hull and the International

Centre for Life in Newcastle, have also scaled back plans. The Eden Centre, a set of giant greenhouses in Cornwall, has had to scrap one of its 60-metre high "biomes" for its April 2000 opening. It is only £4 million short, however, and hopes to build it in the future.

There is better news from Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, which will open in May 1999. It is almost complete and has less than £1 million find. The development, opposite the new Scottish parliament and close to Holyroodhouse, will present the geological development of the earth.

The Lowry, a waterside entertainment complex in Salford featuring theatres, galler-

ies and multimedia centres, has overshoot investment targets, but must still raise about £4.5 million, as some sponsorship is in kind and does not qualify as funding. It will open to the public on April 28, 2000.

The National Space Science Centre in Leicester, too, is doing well. Its Challenger Learning Centre, which will include simulations of space flight, will open well ahead of schedule in October 1999.

Debra Livingstone, millennium campaign manager at the British Tourist Authority, said that landmark schemes had attracted worldwide interest. "We're expecting a real boost to tourism from the millennium," she said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Balloon take-offs delayed

The two latest attempts to circumnavigate the world by balloon were struggling to overcome delays yesterday. The British Cable & Wireless team is trying to reach agreement with Beijing over permission to cross China. Re/Max, a joint American and Australian team, has been forced to put off its departure because of winds over its launch pad in the Outback. It is now expected to take off tomorrow or on Friday.

#### Ellis appeal

Lawyers are to make an application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission in an attempt to overturn the murder conviction of Ruth Ellis, the last woman hanged in Britain. She was executed in 1955.

#### Sheep charge

A 16-year-old youth appeared before Wantage magistrates after farmers allegedly found him naked in a field in Oxfordshire among a flock of sheep. He was accused of a sexual offence and breach of the peace.

#### Althorp car park

Earl Spencer has won a battle to create a car park for visitors to Althorp on an ancient meadow despite local opposition. The chairman of Daventry District Council used her casting vote to approve the scheme.

#### Squirrel threat

Red squirrels that eat only nuts can develop a brittle-bone disease, the Institute of Zoology has found. People feeding them are asked to give peanuts, maize, pine, wheat, sunflower seeds, carrots and apples.

#### Hide-and-stuck

A father had to be rescued by firemen when a game of hide-and-seek went wrong. John Gueran, 42, became wedged in his kitchen cupboard as he hunted for his son's walkie-talkie. It had been a Christmas present.

## Prince in no mood to party over the re-release of 1999

BY MARK HENDERSON

THE pop star Prince has embarked on a new dispute with his former record label over the rights to his song 1999, which is widely tipped to be the biggest hit of next year.

The diminutive American singer, who now prefers to be known as "the Artist", forfeited his rights to the single as part of the agreement that freed him from his contract with Warner Brothers in 1996 after a bitter dispute. He is determined to stop the company profiting from the record's expected popularity.

He has recorded seven remixes on his new record label, NPG. He hopes these will rouse the original in fans to sign an Internet petition demanding the return of his rights over the song, which Warner reissued last week.

Bob Merlis, a Warner spokesman, said that the company had recognised the potential of 1999 as soon as Prince recorded it in 1982. Executives had thought, "if it's not a hit now, we know we'll have another shot", he said.

Prince, who has never allowed his work to be used in advertisements, is also con-

### NET LINKS



Prince: has remixed song

<http://www.cityscape.net/140a/cgi-bin/petition/addquest.htm> Prince's petition

<http://www.thedawn.net> Prince home page

<http://www.warnermusic.co.uk> Warner UK home page

cerned that Warner is considering selling 1999 to advertising agencies. The song is the tune most requested by agencies in America and some are reportedly prepared to pay up

to \$1 million for the rights. A spokesman for Warner said that the label had not yet sold the commercial rights but reserved the right to do so.

The spat is the latest incident in the troubled relationship between the singer and the label, which oversaw his rise to stardom in the early 1980s. While fighting to be released from his contract, Prince performed at the 1995 Brit Awards ceremony with the word "slave" written on his face, and then called his first album after leaving Warner *Emancipation*.

Warner said that it was not worried about Prince's campaign and had the right to re-release the track. "We've got used to his pretty bizarre behaviour and it doesn't mean that much to us any more," the spokesman said. "It's a long time since the split and it's water under the bridge."

Warner is not the only one likely to make money from the single's re-release. Neil Crespin from Surrey stands to make £5,000 if 1999 is number one at any time next year, after placing a £50 bet at William Hill six years ago. The bookmaker has since cut the odds to 6-1 for the song being top next Christmas.



The Rev Margaret Joachim: she has urged people to act sensibly

## Evangelicals see computer bug as God's vengeance

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

FEARS that the millennium bug will bring chaos and could represent God's judgment on a sinful mankind are growing among some Evangelical church leaders in Britain.

British Evangelicals have not gone as far as their American counterparts, who are stocking up food in anticipation of the collapse of society, but many are concerned over what might happen if computers fail to cope with the date-change. About 20 Christian leaders in London heard recently from Peter Erbele, of the Noah project in Atlanta, who believes that communists should stockpile goods to survive "total devastation". He told the meeting that 2000 could usher in the "Last Days" described in the Book of Revelation. The instrument of devastation, he argued, would be the millennium bug, which he compared to the Flood described in Genesis. "We have forgotten all that is sacred," he said.

Miles Prout, who formerly worked for an investment bank and is now assessing the impact of the bug with Evangelical leaders, believes he has a mission to make Churches available to help in what could become a global crisis. "It is probable that a number of systems will break down," he said, adding, "This is another of the daily examples of God's judgement. I don't believe it is the end of the world, or that we will see Christ's Second Coming. But we must be clear that this is something we should all pray about. We should reach out to everyone with the message that God will be there, no matter what."

The Rev Dr Margaret Joachim, an Anglican priest in West London and computer management consultant, said: "The problem is immediate. It happened because technology 20 years ago was not as advanced as it is now. I don't foresee major disasters, if people act sensibly now."

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مركز من القدس

# Son of Begin joins Israeli election race

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THE only son of the late Menachem Begin yesterday announced he would try to follow in his father's footsteps by standing for Prime Minister of Israel.

Benny Begin joins an already crowded field of candidates attempting to oust Benjamin Netanyahu from office next year. The decision would have undoubtedly pleased the elder Begin, who first encouraged his son to stand for the Knesset (parliament) during the 1980s.

However, it may have come as a shock to learn that his son first had to quit Likud, the party founded by the father. Asked what his father would think of his leaving Likud, Mr Begin said: "I am trying very hard to restrain myself from speaking in his name. It

wouldn't be right. It is possible that I would make a mistake and, if I did, he wouldn't be here in order to correct my mistake." A geologist by profession, Mr Begin, 55, has represented Likud in parliament since 1988, and was Science Minister in Mr Netanyahu's Cabinet.



Benny Begin, son of party he founded

He resigned from his post nearly two years ago after the Prime Minister transferred most of the West Bank town of Hebron to Palestinian self-rule. He remains a staunch opponent of the Wye River accord signed by Mr Netanyahu at the White House in October. Under the Wye agreement, the Palestinians are to be given an additional 13 per cent of the West Bank.

Launching his campaign yesterday as the leader of a new right-wing party, Mr Begin said that there could be no more concessions to the Palestinians. "This comes from a tragic understanding that this situation [the process of negoti-



Benny Begin, who opposes land-for-peace deals. His poster campaign does not distract those too young to vote from pressing phone calls



ations with the Palestinians] will never bring us peace, nor security," he said.

Citing the hundreds of Israelis who have died in terrorist attacks since the start of the 1993 Oslo peace process, Mr Begin blamed both Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, and the Islamic militant Hamas movement and declared: "Either we are dragged down the Wye

River and give away more territory to those hoodlums, or we stand firm, and we say enough is enough."

While analysts give Mr Begin little chance of winning the post of Prime Minister, there are fears that he could split the vote of the Right. Mr Begin rejected this claim and described the present Likud leadership as "tired" and "ready to capitulate under pressure". He at-

tacked Mr Netanyahu for making land concessions to the Palestinians that made Likud barely distinguishable from the Israeli Left.

Mr Begin is the fifth contender to announce his candidacy against Mr Netanyahu. Once considered a rising star in Likud, he came in a poor third in a race against Mr Netanyahu for the party leadership in 1993.

Like his father, he has been uncompromising in his belief that the Jews have a birthright to the West Bank. Mr Begin refers to the area by the biblical names Judaea and Samaria, and is seen as a champion of the cause of the some 130,000 Jews who have settled in the territory.

He wants to counter the plans of Mr Arafat, who has said that he will declare a Pal-

estinian state on May 4, the date that the negotiations with Israel are due to run out.

**Bomb verdict:** An Israeli military court has sentenced a Palestinian to life imprisonment for driving two suicide bombers to a busy intersection north of Tel Aviv in January 1995, where they killed 22 people. The militant Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack. (AP)

# Diplomats' spouses win pension cash allowance

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FOR the first time in British diplomacy, husbands and wives who dutifully accompany diplomats posted abroad will be paid an official allowance.

But the money will not be a reward for years of passing canapés at cocktail parties and making polite conversation at embassy dinners; rather, it will be offered only to those who have a separate career and are unable to work abroad or contribute to a British company pension scheme.

The money is not generous: £1,500 a year payable only to those who signalled their intention to work but cannot do so. But it is a victory for Elizabeth Nixon, who heads the Diplomatic Family Service Association. This body, formerly

known as the Diplomatic Wives' Association, has been campaigning since 1991 for a fairer deal for spouses who sacrifice their careers and pensions when they follow their husbands or wives abroad.

Under British law, anyone working overseas is forbidden to contribute to a company pension. The money therefore is an estimate of the cost of a private savings scheme equivalent to an average British pension. This is set low; any spouse will be treated as a Grade 9 diplomat—the lowest rung on the Foreign Office ladder. Funds will come from savings elsewhere in the Foreign Office budget. It will be paid only to spouses, excluding partners (of either sex), and only to

those who have been overseas for three years.

But Mrs Nixon sees the payments, which begin in April, as an important victory in principle. She hopes they can later be extended. But first the Foreign Office itself must decide whether to recognise unmarried partners, who are not yet entitled to travel fares, allowances or other benefits. "Whatever we win for spouses, we would get later for partners."

Mrs Nixon, who will soon join her husband in the United Arab Emirates where he is Ambassador, will be plunged into the social round of entertaining and good works for the large expatriate community. However, she has given up hope of any payment for these representational duties.

"Diplomatic entertaining is not as frequent as it used to be, and it would be tedious to put pressure on spouses to take part. Some people naturally want to join in; others have their own careers." Compensating those who voluntarily helped out would be unfair and unworkable, she said.

Men now account for 500 of the 2,500 members of the association, and even the most conservative societies overseas do not imagine that the husbands of women diplomats will merely accompany their wives to functions.



Elizabeth Nixon, who has been campaigning for seven years for a fairer deal for spouses abroad



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# Fragile states in danger of destruction

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE arrival of the euro poses a twin danger for Europe's poorer regions. It arouses expectations of regional investment and prosperity that it may not be able to fulfil; indeed, it may add to unemployment and underinvestment.

If it does, the resulting disillusion and resentment will worsen tensions in those nations created relatively recently, and those consisting of regions with strong identities.

The process could be aggravated by parallel negotiations on reforming the European Union budget — above all farm spending — due to begin in earnest in March.

In Italy, Umberto Bossi and his Northern League separatists are waiting for a chance to stage a revival by capitalising on regional disparities if the euro fails, as are rival Dutch and French-speaking extremists in Belgium.

The test case for regional hopes — possibly the euro's test case — is Italy's Achille heel, the Mezzogiorno. This chronically backward region, with its history of violence and corruption, deeply worries planners in Brussels and Frankfurt.

The Italian Government, headed by Massimo D'Alema, is aware of the anxieties — and since Italy only scraped into economic and monetary union (EMU), he knows it will take much of the blame should the euro fail to deliver.

One of Signor D'Alema's first acts after taking over in October from Romano Prodi, the architect of Italy's EU entry, was to set up an agency to boost investment in the Mezzogiorno, co-opting the help of the popular and energetic Mayor of Naples, Antonio Bassolino. But the Italian South remains saddled with its image

## FAULTLINES



## OF THE NEW EUROPE

as an area of gangsterism, protection rackets, low productivity, over-regulation, and a poorly educated but relatively high-wage labour force.

At a conference on Sicily this month, Signor D'Alema called for private investment, urging a sceptical business world to "bet on Italy and the Mezzogiorno". Others say the only reason to invest there is lower

**'Scandals have highlighted the weakness of Belgium and reforms have disintegrated'**

costs. If EMU harmonises wages, interest rates and perhaps taxes, but does not even out social and economic inequalities, that would no longer be the case. Italy's 1999 growth rate, forecast at 2.5 per cent, has been revised down to 1.8 per cent by Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Budget and Treasury Minister, and could even be lower. Inflation is within

Maastricht limits at 1.7 per cent, as is the budget deficit at 2.6 per cent. But public sector debt is 121 per cent of gross domestic product — twice the allowed level — and Italy is under fire from the International Monetary Fund for making only cosmetic cuts in pension spending.

Italy's EMU performance will be watched closely by its southern neighbours, notably Greece, which hopes to join in 2001. Again, failure could cause regional stresses. A backward area such as Epirus, a northwestern mountain area bordering Albania, with almost no history of Hellenic culture, has little in common with Athens or the Aegean islands.

Similar tensions could threaten Spain — where Catalan and Basque nationalists chafe at Madrid rule. But most vulnerable is probably Belgium which, like Italy, has a debt to GDP ratio of 122 per cent. Its north-south economic divide is aggravated by linguistic faultlines. Flanders, once seen as rustic, has become high-tech and entrepreneurial.

Wallonia in the French-speaking south, by contrast, live in an area of declining factories and mines, with a population of the elderly and unemployed dependent on social security and pensions.

Recent institutional and political scandals highlighted the country's weakness, and its 1993 constitutional reforms, with a complex system of national and local government, are disintegrating. For some the answer is more local power.

"In all countries in Europe — Italy, Spain, the UK — people understand the necessity of devolving power to regional entities," Luc Van den Brande, the Flemish regional leader, said this month.

Signor Bossi says much the same. But the separatists of Europe are biding their time.



Daric Boutboul, the former French jockey, and her husband, Jacques Perrot, with their son. It was the acrimonious battle that developed later over his custody that was put forward as the motive for Perrot's murder during the trial of Marie-Elisabeth Cons-Boutboul, Daric's mother

# Paris socialite freed in murder mystery

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

AN ELDERLY French socialite convicted of hiring a contract killer to murder her son-in-law was unexpectedly freed from a Paris prison yesterday after serving just four years of a 15-year sentence.

Marie-Elisabeth Cons-Boutboul, 74, mother of the former woman jockey and French television personality, Daric Boutboul, has always denied any role in the murder of Jacques Perrot. She had been at Fleury-Merogis prison since her 1994 conviction but, under a provision known as "semi-liberty", will be allowed to live with her daughter.

Perrot, 39, a wealthy lawyer, gentleman-jockey and playboy with high-level political connections, was shot outside his parents' Paris apartment on December 27, 1988. He was found with two bullets in his head, a third in his heart and a cigarette still in his fingers. Mme Cons-Boutboul was arrested after her chauffeur told police that she had once asked him if he knew

anyone who could do away with her son-in-law, but her conviction was based on circumstantial evidence.

The marriage of Perrot and Daric Boutboul, at which Laurent Fabius, the former Prime Minister, was best man, had collapsed and a vicious custody battle over their child was cited as

the possible motive. Mme Cons-Boutboul, a tiny grey-haired figure, may have appeared a harmless grandmother but prosecutors insisted she was a practised cowwoman and liar.

She presented herself as a widow, a cancer victim, a devout Roman Catholic and a successful international lawyer. Investigators found she had been disbarred for fraud in 1981 and her husband, far from having died in a plane crash, was living in Paris. The Catholic charity Missions Etrangères claimed she had swindled them out of £10 million (£1 million).

The body of the man suspected of shooting Perrot was found in the Le Havre bay in 1998. It took more than eight years to bring Mme Cons-Boutboul to trial, where she had an answer for everything. She dismissed the idea that she had handed a plastic handbag full of cash to a hitman, pointing out that her bag was leather and Louis Vuitton. Quizzed over why she had claimed to have cancer no fewer than

five times, she was blunt: "It was to get tax inspectors off my back."

Far from dithering the charity, she insisted that she had taken part in a Vatican-run operation to smuggle cash and so avoid currency controls. That scam tied in with her son-in-law's death, she claimed. "Jacques died because he knew too much."

It emerged that Perrot, apparently to improve his bargaining position in the child-custody battle, had conducted a private investigation into his mother-in-law's business affairs. They had arranged to dine on December 27, but she cancelled at the last minute.

While the evidence showed that Mme Cons-Boutboul was hardly the demure granny she appeared, her lawyers argued that the prosecution case lacked proof. The decision to free her was made by the prison authorities in defiance of the Justice Ministry. Her lawyer, said: "She is going to take up the case again and proclaim her innocence. She talks of nothing else."



Daric Boutboul, left, with her lawyer at her mother's trial

# Germans turning Green with anxiety

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANS are more worried about the destruction of the Amazonian rainforests than about the introduction of the euro, according to a survey which shows how broadly the country accepts the idea of the new currency.

The Worry Index, based on opinion research by the Infratest Institute, is traditionally conducted at the end of the

year and is regarded as a reliable snapshot of the country's neurosis. For more than three years, pollsters reported a solid two thirds opposition to the euro and a high level of anxiety about the scrapping of the mark. However, days before the introduction of the euro, Infratest finds that only 38 per cent of Germans see the euro as a problem.

Remarkably, the biggest concern is the destruction of tropical rainforests (a fear shared

by 86 per cent of Germans) which suggests that the campaigning of the Green Party, in government since October, has made a significant impact on attitudes.

Worry No 2 is the shifting of jobs abroad — a potent populist argument against eastward enlargement of the European Union, since many German manufacturers are moving factories to western Poland and the Czech Republic.

The increase in crime and ex-

ploitation of the social welfare system rank high on the list. And every second German fears an eruption of communal or racial violence.

The euro ranks only eighteenth in the Worry Index. This goes some way towards explaining the shift in the attitude of Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, towards the euro. A year ago he favoured a delay in the introduction of the new currency rather than a softening of the entry criteria. This

rhetorical opposition has long since been ditched and his Government has become an enthusiastic proponent.

Various events are planned for Friday to mark the birth of the euro. A "euro street festival" is to be held in front of the European Central Bank headquarters in Frankfurt. Ten thousand Germans will form a human version of the euro logo. Frankfurt airport is launching a "euro welcome day" with a euro-shaped cake.

# Divisions surface in security group over Kosovo monitors

BY TOM WALKER

THE international negotiator in Kosovo, William Walker, yesterday flew to Vienna to reassure his bosses in the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) that unarmed monitors are able to help maintain peace.

The first signs of divisions emerged within OSCE at the weekend as Bronislaw Gerek-

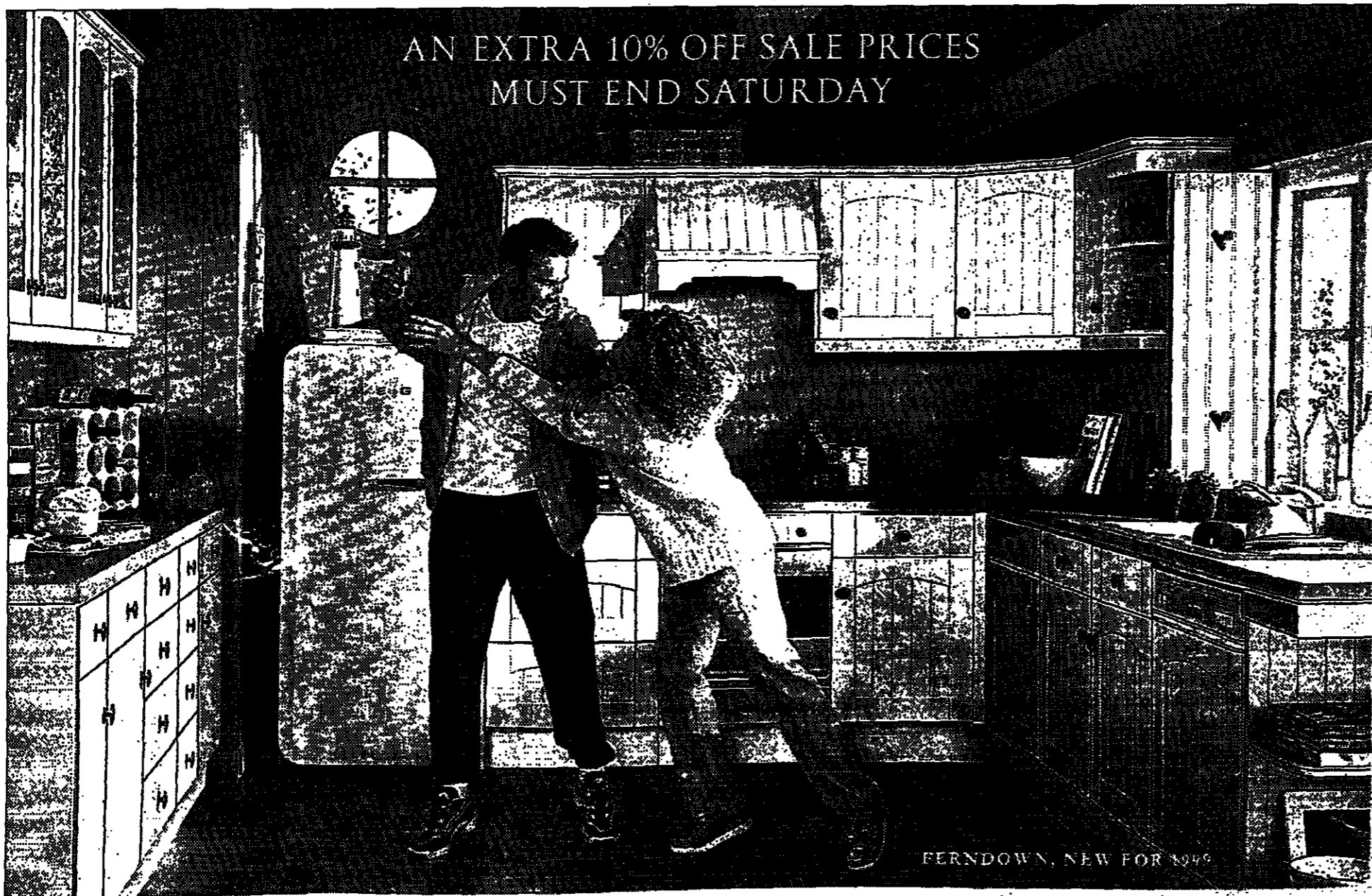
mek, the chairman, gave a warning that its role in the Serbian province might have to alter if violence continued to endanger monitors' lives.

A new ceasefire seems to have done little to assuage the doubts of many diplomats, who increasingly believe that Nato will be needed to bring any lasting stability to Kosovo.

Mr Walker, however, is determined that the mandate of

his "verification mission" should not be trimmed.

An aide said that Mr Walker was in good spirits. "There is no comparison to where we were last summer and now," he said. "We've got monitors where the recent fighting was and we have been aggressive with both sides. There is an understanding with the Yugoslav Army and the Serbian police to pull back."



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# 1998: a year of folly, fear and



The RAF bombed Iraq, but who gained?

This was the year of the great "if only", when the folly of everyone from American Presidents to footballers came into sharp focus. Among the top regrets were surely David Beckham's "If only I'd kept my foot still"; Bill Clinton's "If only I'd left the cigar in the box"; and Peter Mandelson's "If only I'd settled for a cheap house near the Dome". But if General Pinochet regretted a visit to Britain, other despots have yet to count the cost — just ask Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic. Some will rightly remember 1998 as an apocalyptic year of crisis, but there have been amusing moments too, as Bill Frost concedes in his politically incorrect snapshot of the year

### DAWN OF MILLENNIUM FEVER

BY THE time you read this you could be heartily sick of parties. So, forget the millennium bug, global warming and recession — spend the next year at a health farm, recovering your *joie de vivre* in time for the biggest bash in a thousand years.

So what if there is no parking at Greenwich, completion of the Underground link to the Dome remains in doubt and the catering is courtesy of McDonald's? Let's face it, only the immortal will live to see the celebrations in 3000.

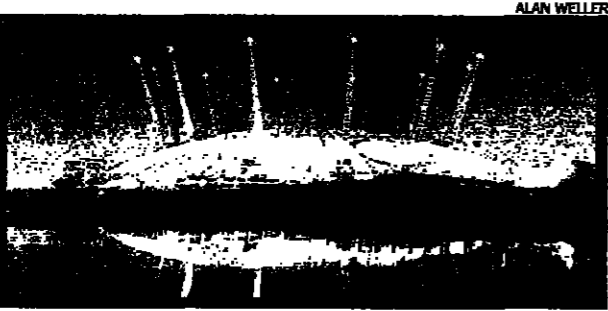
But try to celebrate elsewhere and there are opportunists lurking, intent on squeez-

ing your wallet until the pips squeak. A survey of more than 1,000 hotels showed that restaurants and pubs are set to cash in on Millennium Eve party fever by trebling prices.

"There is a feeling that anything goes," says Sarah Parsons, from the trade magazine *Caterer & Hotel-keeper*.

The London nightclub owner Peter Stringfellow (for the uninitiated, a man in his late fifties with long hair dyed an unlikely shade of yellow, always surrounded by girls a third his age) says he is set to make "a bloody fortune". Surely a good enough reason to go elsewhere?

However, be warned. Baby-sitters are talking about charging the "market rate", already pushing £25 an hour.



Dome's day: prepare to party — and pay through the nose

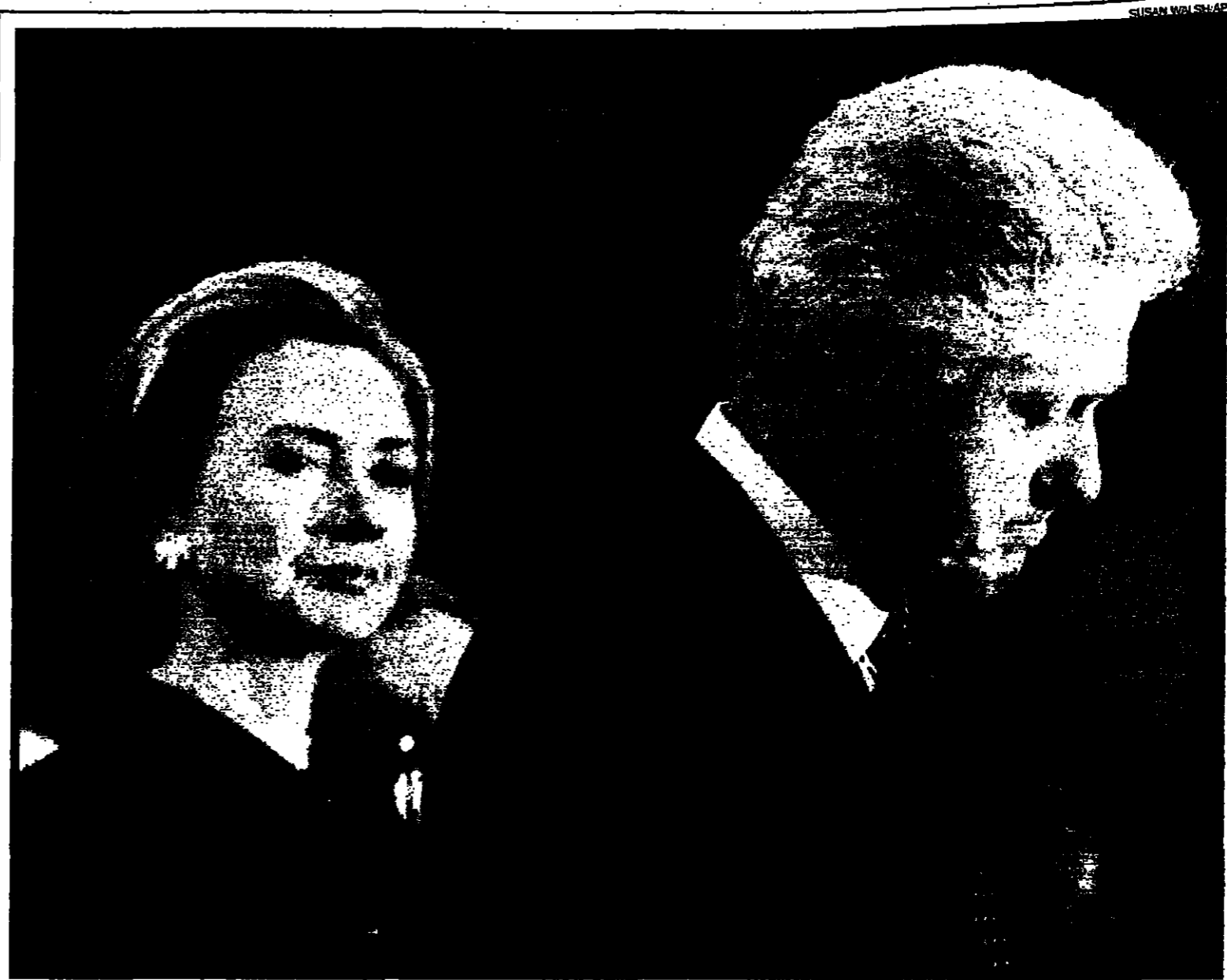
### ENTENTE NON-CORDIALE

AS BRITISH bombers strafed and pounded Baghdad, there must have been at least a few in new Labour who wished, just for a nanosecond, that the targets were closer to home. For 1998 has not been a great year for relations with our European Union partners.

Tony Blair has tried not to appear irked at plans by the EU's senior partners, France and Germany, to "harmonise" taxes — which, literally translated, means put them up.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, even smiled through a "hand-dipped" at a recent Euro-summit administered by Germany's Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine — the very man calling for tax harmonisation, and for a cut in Britain's rebate.

"I'm like Margaret Thatcher — I want my money back," Lafontaine is reported to have said while bashing Brown with the handbag of one Frida Zelt. No wonder *The Sun* dubbed Lafontaine the most dangerous man in Europe.



The cracks are beginning to show: Hillary Clinton was not impressed by revelations of her husband's cavorting with Monica Lewinsky, below

### THE LAST LAUGH

AS THE year died, so did Bill Clinton's hopes of avoiding impeachment. Not even the smart bombs pounding Iraq could save Slick Willy this time. A full trial for high crimes and misdemeanours before the Senate now looms, with Monica Lewinsky once again the star witness. The frock in the fridge, the encounters in the corridor, the whole "inappropriate relationship" will again be explored.

Clinton has vowed to work "to the last day" of his term of office and is hoping for an eleventh-hour deal. If anyone can manage such sleight of hand, it is surely he. But despite the opinion polls, there's no smart money riding on his chances of survival yet.

Saddam Hussein must be chuckling in one of his Baghdad bunkers. He can rebuild his stockpile of doomsday weapons in the fullness of time and con-

tinue to cock a snook at the world. What is more, he is President of Iraq for life. Slick or what?

But the loudest laugh could well belong to Hillary Clinton. As 1999 dawns, there are rumours that she wants to run for the Senate. With her popularity high, that certainly seems an option. During the congressional election campaign, it was she who toured the country, advising Bill to focus on foreign affairs. This month she's the cover girl of *American Vogue*, and *Time* magazine was said to be considering naming her its "Man of the Year". And after a year of dignity under fire, she may finally be firing of her errant husband; she cackled during their recent trip to Israel, and *National Enquirer* magazine reports that she hit him so hard on the cheek that he needed make-up to cover the bruise.



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ININGS

BE FAIR, it's been a mixed year for England's sportsmen. A Test in the West Indies was abandoned because of a dangerous pitch. England won a five-Test series for the first time in 12 years (against South Africa), but crumbled when faced by the Aussies.

And what about football's World Cup? What is certain is that no one who saw England v Argentina will ever forget it — 2-2 at the start of the second half, when Beckham, himself fouled, delivered a petulant kick to his assailant, earning a red card and leaving England with ten men. And then there was the penalty shoot-out, ending with David Batty's heroic failure. Still, Michael Owen, the 18-year-old Liverpool striker, emerged swathed in glory, the toast of teenage girls everywhere.

OUTINGS

FORGET new Labour, what about gay Labour? Three Cabinet ministers were "outed" in almost as many weeks this autumn: Ron Davies went on an outing to Clapham Common, which he denies was an "outing", but which led to his resignation nevertheless; Peter Mandelson — unmasked by *Times* columnist Matthew Paris on BBC2's *Newsnight* — and Nick Brown, Agriculture Minister, who came out after a former lover threatened to kiss and tell. Brown's discretion earned the tolerance of farmers, who said he could do as he liked as long as he helped their industry. Mandelson was brought down not by his sexuality, but by the size of his house (a very British preoccupation). The row about that loan rumbles on, in a way that speculation about Mandelson's private life never would have done (not at any rate with

Highgrove at least three nights a week and the young Princesses are content that their father is happy at last. The nation, too, seems well-disposed towards him. And there are signs that we are finally warming to Camilla. So, just 16 months after the death of Diana, Charles's image has been transformed. Appropriately, it was Geri Halliwell, the Spice Girl transformed into a United Nations emissary, who was the star turn at his 50th birthday celebrations in November, dressing up as Marilyn Monroe and blowing a kiss to the Prince. The jollity was somewhat marred by an ITV documentary suggesting that the Prince was impatient for his rother to abdicate — he issued a denial. A biography by Penny Junor, which had benefited by a little too much collaboration from Charles's friends, also caused a storm.

CELEBRITY CASUALTIES

THE PRIORY, an exclusive clinic in southwest London, has never done so well, in terms of publicity at least. Gaza was enthused with fresh hope after his treatment for alcohol; other residents included "emotionally exhausted" supermodel Kate Moss, pop widow Paula Yates and "depressed" TV inquisitor Ruby Wax. 1998 has been the year to get elegantly wasted and cured... if you can afford £3,000 a week.

no

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HALIFAX

# mounting millennium fever

## BABY TALK

A WORLD CUP may have been lost with a childish gesture of pique, but England footballer David Beckham still has much to celebrate.

As recent appearances of the Spice Girls have accentuated, both his girlfriend, Posh Spice, and Scary Spice will soon give birth to a new generation of Spice babies — enough to keep designer bootie-makers busy until the millennium. Not to be out-bulged, Natalie Appleton of the rival band All Saints stayed gamely centre-stage throughout and gave birth last month.

(As if the Spice Girls had not covered themselves in enough glory, this month they equalled the record of seasonal Number Ones once scored by the Beatles with three consecutive Christmas hits. This year's *Goodbye* could easily have been dedicated to departed band member Geri.)

Moving on, one must question the wisdom shown by celebrity dates of a similar age to the Beatles, still playing away in their dotage. Pity poor Texan supermodel Jerry Hall, who gave birth to her fourth child this year, only to be betrayed by her husband, Mick Jagger, once more. Now that her wrinkled consort has allegedly impregnated another carwalker — the Brazilian model Luciana Gimenez Morad — she is said to be contemplating divorce.



Model Jerry Hall, mother of four and wife of Mick Jagger, is believed to be contemplating divorce after allegations that the Rolling Stone has been gathering moss elsewhere

## CRASH

ALMOST every economy in the Far East has gone into meltdown... too much credit, not enough productivity. The rest of the world has caught a cold but, so far, influenza has not set in.

## BANG

MARKS & SPENCER chairman Sir Richard Greenbury shocked the City by standing down as chief executive (he held both posts) after profits dipped by 23 per cent for the first half of the year. Synonymous with traditional British values, M&S is also regarded as a barometer of the nation's economy, which could suggest bleak times for retailers.

## WALLOP

IN THE left corner, Polly Toynbee, *The Guardian*, BBC, "liberal" credentials. On the right, Bruce Anderson, a columnist of the Genghis Khan persuasion with a moderate fondness for confrontation. He mocked her political credentials at a media thrash, she washed his hair with Chilean white. What a party!

## YES, YES, YES



Viagra, the wonder drug

BRITISH beef is back on the menu after European Union farm ministers lifted the ban on it being sold in world markets. Viagra, the wonder drug for impotence, has restored virility to despondent men — but British GPs have been told that they can prescribe it only in exceptional circumstances to limit a possible £1 billion NHS bill, and Delia Smith has revised the fortunes of eggs, flour and omelette pans with her TV series and book, *How To Cook*. Sales of a frying pan leapt from 200 a year to 90,000 after she described it as "a little gem".

## DESMOND BOWMAN REVIEWS



The havoc wreaked by Hurricane Mitch, the western hemisphere's worst disaster

AUGUST 15: A new monster reared up in Northern Ireland as the old beasts of our backdoor jungle prepared to retire. The Omagh bombing, which eventually claimed 29 lives, shocked even veteran sectarian killers, who vowed to hunt down members of the so-called Real IRA.

The RUC revealed that a telephone warning identified a site at one end of the town, and police moved people a quarter of a mile away. A 500lb car bomb then exploded at the evacuation point.

This was the worst atrocity in 30 years of the Troubles, with babies and children among the dead and injured. Whether by accident or design, the dissident republican group responsible appeared to have dug a grave for the peace process in this bustling town. But the Real IRA had reckoned without the power of simple human resolution. Its outrage was to unite old foes, and the peace process still staggers on.

A week earlier huge blasts had eviscerated American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania within minutes of each other, leaving up to 80 dead and

## MAYHEM

as many as 1,200 injured. The attacks seemed to be the work of a shadowy group funded by the renegade Saudi millionaire Osama bin Laden, who promised more of the same against "The Great Satan". Days later, the US launched simultaneous strikes against alleged terror bases in Afghanistan and Sudan. Observers on the ground later described at least one "guerrilla base" as a food processing plant.

Auburn and nature displayed her awesome power: Hurricane Mitch, officially described as the western hemisphere's worst disaster, brought death and havoc to Central

told that half of all the houses built in Britain since the Second World War have been imprudently sited on areas prone to flooding. And experts say there's more rain to come.

In November scientists warned us that global warming may have triggered melting of sea ice in the Arctic. They fear that a cold mass of water displaced in such a way could lead to huge disruptions of ocean circulation, including the Gulf Stream, which keeps Britain and Western Europe relatively warm.

Bad weather has cost the world a record £60 billion this year, says the environmental researcher Worldwatch Institute, and Munich Re, a reinsurance company.

## HAPPY COUPLINGS

A SINKING ship provided an emotional high for millions as *Titanic* reached British screens in January.

Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio found love amid the chandeliers and icebergs in the year's great weepie. But while the fictional couple were parted, real life had a happier ending as Winslet married assistant film director Jim Threapleton at her family's parish

church in Reading. Determined to keep their distance from Hollywood lavishness on this day, at least, the couple arranged a reception meal of bangers and mash in the village pub, and resolutely honeymooned in the damp fells of Scotland.

Emma Noble and James Major had an altogether glitzier time — the former game show hostess and son of the

former Prime Minister got engaged in 1998, to howls of incredulity from everyone who observed Miss Noble's taste for transparent clothing. But her future father-in-law responded with an object lesson in avoiding family rows: by commenting only on the pleasantness of her disposition.

But the couple which enchanted the public most was Butech and Sundance, also known as the Tamworth Two. The pair of ginger pigs escaped from an abattoir in Wiltshire and remained on the run for several days before being captured, signed up by a tabloid newspaper, and retired to an animal sanctuary.

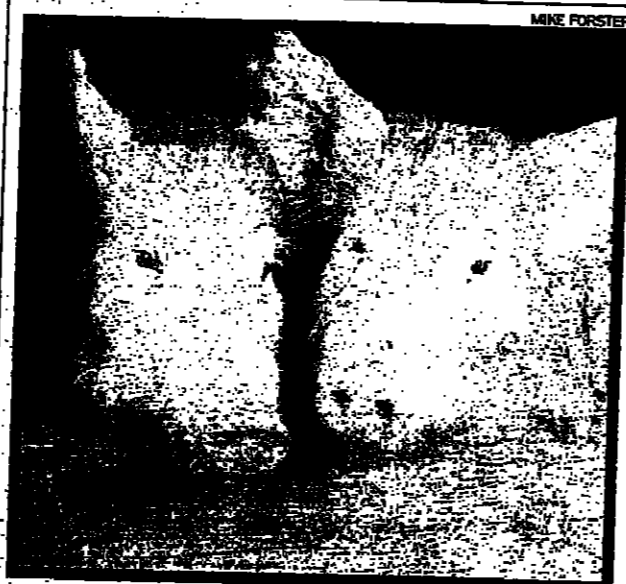


EMMA NOBLE

## Notice to Halifax borrowers.

The variable base rate for Halifax pic mortgage accounts (but not secured personal loan accounts) will be decreased by 0.5% p.a. to 7.70% p.a.

The new interest rate will take effect from 1st January 1999 for existing borrowers. The monthly payment will be amended from April 1999 for mortgage accounts on Budget Plan and from the next review date for mortgage accounts on Annual Review.



Perfect pairs: the Tamworth two and, top, *Titanic's* lovers

## UNHAPPY COUPLINGS

COUNTESS LOCKWOOD and Earl Spencer were very publicly divorced in a South African court hearing that became a media circus. But any embarrassment suffered by the two parties was as nothing compared with the humiliation of Will Carling.

All Cockayne, the mother of his child, read Carling's memoirs on their word processor and found that all references to their relationship had been changed to the past tense. Worse, Carling's new relationship was with the wife of a friend. A lucrative testimonial match was cancelled.

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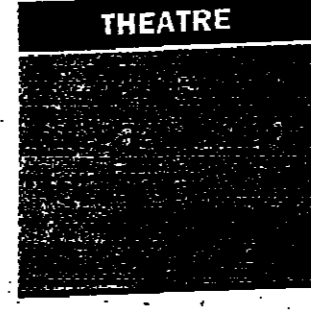
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**GALLERIES**  
Goya: France celebrates a Spanish master  
THIS PAGE

THE TIMES  
**ARTS**



# The madness of king Goya

**VISUAL ART:** In Lille, Richard Cork joins the young Matisse in being stunned by the dark side of genius

Early in 1892, the young Henri Matisse travelled north from Paris to meet his father at Lille. Their encounter, as ever, was hostile. Disappointed by his son's lack of success at art school, the father threatened to cut off the young man's allowance. Plagued by self-doubt, Matisse went to the city's Musée des Beaux-Arts. It was a momentous visit. "I believed I would never be able to paint," he recalled. "Then I saw the Goyas at Lille. That was when I understood that painting could be a language; I thought that I could become a painter."

The pair of major canvases Matisse saw there, at the age of 22, are among the most original and challenging images Goya produced. Their extraordinary freedom must have come as a revelation to a student stifled by the academicism of his teachers. He began to realise that a way forward might be found, even if Goya's unshackled approach was

wilder by far than anything Matisse had dared to attempt. The more astonishing of the two Goyas, a tall painting called *The Old Women or Time*, still holds its own among his other paintings now lent to Lille for a powerful exhibition. As the show's title indicates, *Goya: Un Regard Libre* stresses the most emancipated sides of his protean imagination. And nothing is more headlong than the canvas where two crones leer and cackle while the winged figure of Time lunges at them lethally from behind. Like many of Goya's darkest fantasies, this nightmarish hallucination was not painted in response to a commission. He produced it to satisfy a profoundly personal, reckless urge, born of long frustration at working to satisfy a deluge of requests from the Spanish monarchy, assorted grandees and the Church. A precociously successful artist, Goya had spent much of his youth executing fresco cycles and tapestry cartoons for

royal palaces. He was expected to adopt a decorative, courtly style in the extended cartoon series, and his exceptional facility enabled him to delight his patrons at will.

The opening room of the Lille survey includes outstanding examples from the early tapestry sequences. In *The Parasol*, lent by the Prado, an exquisitely dressed young woman lounges in the open air and waves a fan with a beckoning, bare forearm. Ignoring a man shielding her from the sun, she flirts with us as we admire her seductive allure. Throughout his life, Goya would prove adept at defining female beauty, above all in his provocative paintings of the Duchess of Alba. But the other tapestry pictures show just how broad his interests really were.

Chilled travellers huddle under cloaks as they struggle through a snowstorm. At the other seasonal extreme, farmworkers carouse and jostle as they celebrate a harvest. Boys shake pitchforks with alarming glee, for Goya had a fellow feeling for the unruly abandon of childhood. But there is scant sign of his later fascination with violence, apart from an unfamiliar painting of 1786-87 called *The Fall*. A well-dressed lady, whose horse lies prostrate on the ground, receives attention from a hump-backed doctor while her companions wait and deplore the accident. Even here, though, the incident looks more like a passage from a play than a real tragedy. The landscape resembles stage scenery, and only after a serious illness in 1793 would Goya start to explore the most troubled aspects of his complex temperament.



Goya's *The Old Women or Time* "could have been painted by Dix or Grosz in the most feverish years of the Weimar Republic"

By now permanently deaf, the 47-year-old artist began to paint disturbing images of insanity, imprisonment and death. At the Madrid Academy, where he was appointed director of painting in 1795, Goya submitted "cabinet pictures", including a painting on tin plate called *The Madmen's Compound*. The bestial despair of its naked inmates must have appalled devotees of his more ingratiating work. But Goya now had no intention of evading his most unsettling, pessimistic concerns. They were far more important to him than the religious commissions that constitute the weakest part of his output.

The strangest room at Lille sets up a direct confrontation between saccharine biblical scenes on one wall, and, on the other, small panels where cannibals dismember and consume their victims. Goya seems to have carried out his anaemic religious pictures in a dutiful spirit, excluding everything that we value most highly in his work. But the cannibal images unleash his private demons, and two paintings borrowed from Besançon still have the capacity to unnervingly in one, naked men rummage sickeningly inside a disembowelled corpse spread out on a rocky outcrop. Almost half the picture-surface is given over to

emptiness, suggesting that the heinous ritual takes place on the very edge of the world. In the other scene, grimness gives way to an even more gruesome hilarity. The seated nude dominating the picture grins as he brandishes a severed hand and a decapitated head. Feasting is about to commence.

Nobody knows precisely when Goya painted these ghoulish panels. But they were probably executed during the first decade of the 19th century, a time of terrible destruction and upheaval throughout Spain. In 1808 Charles IV, Goya's principal royal patron, abdicated. But his successor, Ferdinand VII, was detained at Bayonne by Napoleon and, after an uprising in Madrid, Joseph Bonaparte became the Spanish King. Goya was adaptable enough to be awarded the Royal Order of Spain by Bonaparte three years later, and yet the newly victorious Duke of Wellington would consider him the most suitable artist to paint his portrait in 1812. However expert Goya may

have been at the art of political survival, he remained uncompromising in his resolve to reflect the era of carnage in his most private paintings. He produced the haunting *Interior of a Prison*, its gloom lessened only by a dim, hazy light disclosing the wretchedness of the haggard men left to putrefy there. Manacled, dishevelled and stooped with exhaustion, they sit or lie around a wooden structure placed like a coffin beneath the arch. One of the smallest paintings in the show, this desolate image is the most searing.

Soon afterwards, Goya went on to explore the negation of death in a remarkably direct series of animal and bird pictures. The woodcocks assembled in one canvas belong to a tradition of dead game paintings extending back several centuries in European art. But Goya had no time now for the decorative flourishes that often accompanied such trophy pictures. The birds are heaped ignominiously in a deeply shadowed space, and the dead turkey-cock iso-

lated in another picture looks still more abject. Neck pushed up callously against a wicker basket, it has been dumped there by a killer who cared nothing for the bird's dignity. As for the sea bream piled on top of each other elsewhere in the series, they could hardly appear more disconsolate.

This is the antithesis of those boastful paintings intended to laud the hunting prowess of their owners. No angler would crow over such a melancholy catch, and Goya ensured that his painting of a sheep's head and carcass smacks more of the abattoir than of a duke's larder. Almost 200 years before Damien Hirst incorporated a rotting cow's head in one of his most notorious sculptures, Goya depicted this mutilated motion with a similar frankness.

At the same time, though, he continued to paint portraits of aristocrats exuding elegant aplomb. Flaunting a shapely thigh and calf, the Conde de Fernan Nunez preens himself

**AROUND THE GALLERIES**

IT IS A pity that visitors are not supposed to touch, because Tony Cragg's new sculptures at the Lisson Gallery tease the tactile sense. The swollen curves and tapering lines of *Valve*, plumped upon the floor like a fallen seed pod, invite one to stroke them. I watched other visitors approaching *Secretions*, its slack bulges coiling like an untidy cobra. The first instinct was to reach out and run a hand over the folded, rubbery surface which is made of thousands of dice.

In a different way, the spiky, vitreous waves of *Pacific's* glittering sea of bottles or *Cumulus's* exquisitely balanced tower of frosted glass vessels tempt one to test their fragility with a finger. But this sensuous temptation is counteracted by the machine-like forms of the bronzes. A piece such as *Dingle*, its corkscrewing lip curled into a hard smile or a sneer, seems to push the viewer away.

Such visceral responses are a clear indication of Cragg's fluency as he explores the ideas that link or distinguish different forms and materials. Those who respond naturally to his sculpture will look forward to next April, when he has been commissioned to work for the show window space of the Royal Academy courtyard, 52-54 Bell St, London NW1 (0171-724-2739), until Feb 6.

IN AN art world where conceptual and installation pieces so often take precedence, Boukamel Contemporary has a refreshing array of talented painters in its stable. Its end-of-year show offers a fine opportunity to see a selection. Upstairs are the splashed gladioli of Rainer Fetting, the lambent tulips of Joumana Mourad, their bright colours all the bolder when set off by the clean-cut steel pieces of E.R. Nele which cut their gaunt shadows against white walls. Downstairs the work is less easy on the eye. A bruised face by Ken Currie seeps out of shadow, while Phillip Braham captures mood and romance in landscape.

9 Cork St, W1 (0171-734 6449) until Jan 15

WHAT does family mean to you? This was the question asked by *i-D* magazine. Family Future Positive charts the answers in a hotchpotch of photographs, projections, drawings and running sheets published in the current edition of the magazine and now exhibited at the Proud Galleries. From the patch-eyed bull terrier of Alexander McQueen, through wedding-day snapshots and family line-ups, to homosexuals and hip young teenagers out on the town, this is a restless, multifaceted, futuristic portrait.

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# Virtue rains on this parade

Fast an excited crowd comes to see some celebrating the doings of Didi in the Civil War that ended 50 years before, some celebrating the renewal of Atlanta. Among the trundling exhibits are a one-legged veteran complete with canon, the smiling Governor of Georgia, some Southern belles, a fire engine, Confederate flags, refuse collectors with a placard reading 'you live in the greatest city in the world, let's make it the cleanest and healthiest'.

It is the sort of scene Hal Prince stages supremely well.

## THEATRE

and in *Parade* (at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre) he stages it three times and to increasing ironic effect: once while the protagonist, Leo Frank, is quietly wondering why anyone would want to celebrate losing a war; once after he has been convicted of raping and killing a 13-year-old girl; and finally when he has been grabbed from a prison farm and hanged from the vast, twisted tree that hovers like some vengeful ogre over the entire action.

I am not giving away secrets for the lynching of Frank, whose only proven crimes were to be Jewish, a Yankee and useful to a DA with a poor conviction record, has provoked many a movie and book in America, most recently David Mamet's *Old Religion*. And if this 80-year-old atrocity seems an unlikely subject for New York's latest mega-musical - even Prince's successes include *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*, *Cabaret* and *Sweeney Todd*, whose body-count was far higher. Moreover, the book is by Alfred Ury, author of *Driving Miss Daisy*, and the songs by Jason Robert Brown, the young composer some are penciling in as the new Sondheim.



Touching performances by Brent Carver and Carolee Carmello as Leo and Lucille Frank fail to lift the disappointing Broadway mega-musical, *Parade*

But the black humour of *Todd* is not an option for a true story as sad and touchy as this. Nor is the grotesquerie of *Cabaret* or the ecstasies of *Spiderwoman*. If the show disappoints, it is because it is the fruit of the mild, grey virtues: good taste, worthy moral feelings and, notably, in an irrelevant and puzzling scene involving Adamant blacks at home, political correctness. And if you compare it with *Ragtime*, another musical about a victim of racial bigotry, it seems lacking in variety and excitement.

True, this lack is not wholly

the show's fault, for its main focus is Frank and the arranged marriage that he and his Southern-Jewish wife are taught by pain and struggle to value. Moreover, the point about Leo is that he is the very opposite of the crazed stereotype, the leering anti-Christ, seen in a brief fantasy sequence dancing round the underpaid girls who toil at the pencil factory where he is supervisor. As played by Brent Carver, he is studiously dull: a prim fustoot, a pernickery nerd who can nag Carolee Carmello's anguished Lucille Frank to pay the household

bills while he himself is festering in jail.

Both actors give touching performances, but you are still conscious of opportunities missed, especially in the libretto. Wouldn't there be weird stirrings, maybe even emotional krakens awoken in the minds of a man and his wife when accusations of paedophilia and child-murder are flying? Wouldn't Sondheim have brought more texture to the score than Brown, who moves more capably from country to gospel to love-song, but is over-reliant on a pulsating throb meant to intro-

duce tension and embody the martial side of paranoid Atlanta.

Still, there are moderately tense moments, notably when paranoia is being expressed by John Leslie Wolfe as a ferociously anti-Semitic editor ('Jesus was not a Jew') whose black hat and white, glinting eyes suggest Lucifer disguised as a hell-fire preacher. The scene in which Atlantans caper and spin in joy at Leo's conviction, while he and Lucille stand bewildered and apart, is strong in itself, and prepares you for the grim denouement that follows the governor's un-

popular decision to commute Frank's death sentence. Yet dramatic power and emotional force are still missing.

Might the evening gain intensity in a smaller space, like our own Donmar? Maybe. Would this production mean more if it were transposed to Atlanta, where the Frank case is reputedly still the sort of sore that needs exposing to daylight? Certainly. Serious and principled though *Parade* is, it adds too little lustre to the Great White Way.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Pulling the heart-strings

The *Secret Garden*, the story of a girl who finds redemption through horticulture, is one of the great literary works of the 20th century. Her efforts inside the forgotten garden not only restore her own self to emotional health but help others to do likewise. The two five-year-olds beside me watching the puppets at Ishington's Little Angel Theatre knew nothing of the story before the curtains opened for Christopher Leith's new production. But his version tells the story clearly and with intriguing detail, changing only the way in which the boy's mother dies - a pity this, because her fall from the tree is dramatic, and incidents of this sort prove well within the skills of the puppeteers. If the string of a flying kite can be transferred from the hand of one puppet to the hand of another, anything is possible.

With a marvellous ingenuity the topiary edges and ivy-

covered walls are moved around the stage as Mary and her new friends explore the grounds of Misselthwaite Manor. These puppets are controlled by black-headed figures, but when the distant Manor opens out like a doll's house, the scale changes and a tiny string-puppet Mary, tiny servants and, eventually, tiny Dickon's even tinier pet animals go hopping up the grand staircases, clumping their wooden feet on each step. It's delightful.

As always, children respond with glee when grown-ups on stage faint in a heap, stamp their feet (wooden ones make a great noise), hit themselves with a spade or accidentally slide down ladders when peeping over walls. Leith's production balances gentle comedy with mystery and it ends, like any good Christmas show,

with a transformation scene where flowers spread across formerly barren earth.

A shortened version of *The Secret Garden* is designed for three-year-olds, the age of most of the audience for *The Elves and the Shoemaker* at Polka Adventure Theatre in Wimbledon. In this room below the main auditorium the puppets are handled by Paul McCrink and Dystin Johnson, who also act the shoemaker and his jolly wife before sliding out of their shop and returning unseen, probably on hands and knees, to wiggle the rods. They develop good inductive rapport, though inevitably the conflicting demands from the floor can't always be individually met. When McCrink speaks as a puppet his voice becomes mysteriously thin and sweet. It's a pleasure to hear him. (The show is sponsored, appropriately, by Footies of Wimbledon.)

JEREMY KINGSTON

## BUILDING A LIBRARY

### A guide to the best recordings, in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

**CHOPIN'S FOUR BALLADES**  
Reviewed by Owen Norris

"OH GOD, Thou art! Thou art! and avengest Thyself not Thou hast still not enough of the Musscovite craves, or, Thou art Thyself a Musscovite!" Chopin's 1831 diary entry, on hearing of the fall of Warsaw in Russia's conquest of his native Poland.

His first Ballade, completed in 1835, reflects his feelings. It begins in deepest melancholy, and builds to heights of incoherent passion. Through this piece, Chopin explored a new way of composing. The sonata forms arrived at by Haydn and Mozart, however wonderfully disguised by the composer's fancy, exemplified a rigorous harmonic logic. Chopin offers instead an allusive logic of melody and tempo, hard to capture in notation, and there-

fore rare in performance. At every part of the music, what happens next can sound mysteriously inevitable, or just one damn thing after another, according to the insight of the performer. Krystian Zimerman (Deutsche Grammophon EL23 090.2, £16.99, available through Polygram's Import Music Service) spins this musical thread to perfection, demonstrating a truly marvellous long-range control while lavishing the utmost care on passing beauties.

Chopin developed his new high-risk strategy of composition in three more Ballades, the last appearing in 1842. They were not intended

as a cycle; they simply share similar characteristics. Sviatoslav Richter particularly disliked gratuitous completeness, so it's a stroke of luck that all four Ballades appear on transcripts of his 1960 radio broadcasts from Prague. This is a thrilling disc for occasional listening, though its musical quirks and engineering shortcomings would perhaps make frequent hearings tiresome.

Many recordings of the Ballades strain for poetic effect in the face of long familiarity. Emanuel Ax, in a budget price release in the RCA Navigator series, blows the cobwebs away. His occasional gruffness merely sets the scene for greater beauties, and his architectural grasp rivals Zimerman's. Both pianists share a penchant for singing along, which is perhaps how they achieve their beautiful, natural phrasing. But Zimerman is the better singer.

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO081, Forres, N33 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*

## WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London  
Phone venue for ticket availability.

- THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE:** The D'Oy Carte Company comes to the West End bringing Gilbert and Sullivan's joyful adventures with pirates, policemen and a modern megacorporation. (Lyric Theatre, 0171-994 5041)
- QUATRE MAINS:** Acrobatic dance for four. Created by Andrzej Szczepanski, creator of *Theridion*, *F18* and *Joel Hoeben*, director for *The Right Side of the Bed*. (Lyric Theatre, 0171-994 5041)
- CHICAGO:** Maria Friedman injects new blood into the hit revival of Kander and Ebb's musical about murder and katie bar. (Adelphi, 0171-344 0055)
- DICK BARTON SPECIAL AGENT:** Journey back to the 1940s with the famous old radio thriller, brought to life by Phil Witton. (The Croydon Warehouse, Croydon 0181-550 4060)
- THE GOLEM:** David Burt and Gaye Brown star in Sylvia Friedman and Cathy Shostal's uplifting new musical about the man-made monster who runs amok. (New End, N15 0171-794 0022)
- JESUS MY BOY:** Tom Coko in John Dove's truly amazing comedy song. (Apollo, 0171-434 5077)
- PETER PAN:** Justin Slinger in the title role, with David Troughton as Captain Hook, in the return of Peter Pan's original production. (Theatre Royal, Haymarket 0171-830 8000)
- THE SNOWMAN:** The much-loved Raymond Briggs characters soar over the audience in Bill Alexander's joyful production. (Theatre Royal, Haymarket 0171-830 8000)
- THE KING AND I:** Whistle a happy tune with Phil Witton's Siam. (Theatre Royal, Haymarket 0171-830 8000)
- LATE NITE GATECRASH:** Memphis Depina stars in the uncensored *Star* in her American comedy hit. (Lyric Theatre, 0171-994 5041)
- THE MERCHANT OF VENICE:** Gregory Doran's production from Stratford, chiefly notable for Philip
- Wells's superb Shylock. (Barbican, 0171-638 8891)
- ARABIAN NIGHTS:** Ali Adab, Shabir and lesser-known talents adapted and directed by Dominic Cooke for the Croydon Warehouse. (Croydon 0181-550 4060)
- CINDERELLA:** Neil Barrett and the Snow-White Peter team stage a century-wonderful version of Angela Carter's classic. (Lyric Theatre, 0171-994 5041)
- THE BEST OF TIMES:** The Broadway Theatre's programme of Jerry Herman songs from *La Cage aux Folles*, *Mame*, *Mac* & *Heidi* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. (Broadway Theatre, 0171-835 9897)
- LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE UNLAWFUL:** David Halliwell's celebrated student protest play. (Hampstead, 0171-729 8211)
- INTO THE WOODS:** Sondheim's nightmare take on favourite fairytales. (John Crowley directs the West End production. (Donmar, 0171-369 1732)
- THE INVENTION OF LOVE:** John Wood plays the aged A.E. Housman writing his early ball in Tom Stoppard's brilliant comedy. (West End Theatre, 0171-830 8000)
- AMADEUS:** David Suchet plays Salieri with Michael Sheen as Mozart in Peter Hall's award-winning production of the Stravinsky play. (Old Vic, 0171-928 7610)
- WEST SIDE STORY:** Alan Johnson's stylish revival of Leonard Bernstein's classic is a triumph of wit and testosterone over the imbecile Manhattan brawny between the Jets and the Sharks. (Theatre Royal, Haymarket 0171-830 8000)
- ANNIE:** A musical by Thomas Merton to tug at your heartstrings while playing iconic tunes on them. (Lyric Theatre, 0171-994 5041)
- THE MERCHANT OF VENICE:** Gregory Doran's production from Stratford, chiefly notable for Philip

## FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

### NEW RELEASES

- THE APPLE (PG):** Fascinating Iranian docu-drama about two daughters kept imprisoned at home by their parents. Directed by Samira Mahdavi.
- ENEMY OF THE STATE (15):** Will Smith's lawyer tumbles upon a political conspiracy. Exciting, but a little over-the-top. Directed by Tony Scott.
- THE MIGHTY (PG):** Endeavouring tale of two outcast children, one hulking, one crippled, who pool their resources. Power Chalmers directs. (Eaton Stone, Kieran Culkin and Eldon Henson)
- WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15):** Robin Williams wades through the afterlife trying to find his loved ones. Technically dazzling, but sabotaged by a wobbly script. With Annabella Stone, Cuba Gooding Jr and Matt Van Sydow. Director, Vinton Ward
- CURRENT**
- THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG):** Steven Spielberg's epic of the not much for leading in the biblical story of Moses leading the Israelites to the promised land. Yipes! Includes *Yip Yip King of the Beavers*. The directors are Brenda Chapman, Steve Barrer and Simon Wilson.
- HABER: PIG IN THE CITY (U):** Evening's favourite talking pig faces the horrors of the hostile city. Gross-out, misjudged sequel to the hit film. With Magda Szubanska. Director, George Miller
- DANCING AT LUGHNASSA (PG):** Compressed and perfunctory version of Brian Friel's play about five ancient women in 1820s Connemara. With Mary Streeter, Catherine McCormack and Kathy Burke. Director, Pat O'Connor
- ON CORNELL LA CHANSON (PG):** Defined relationship comedy with a marvellous cast and top-notch snatches of popular song. Alan Bergman directs Sabine Azéma, Pierre Arditi and André Dussolier
- RUSH HOUR (15):** LA and Hong Kong cops form forces on a kidnapping case. Routine fare, enhanced by Asian legend Jackie Chan. The mouth-mouth comic Chris Tucker. Director, Brett Ratner
- TWILIGHT (15):** Down-to-earth private eye (Paul Newman) is hired to find a woman's killer. Inconceivable plot, but a wonderful cast. With Gene Hackman, Susan Sarandon, James Caan. Director, Robert Altman
- THE NEGOTIATOR (15):** Police hostage negotiator takes hostages himself to prove his innocence. Over-the-top suspense thriller, with Samuel L. Jackson, Kevin Spacey, Director, F. Gary Gray
- OUT OF SIGHT (15):** Escaped convict George Clooney finds himself falling for a woman (Catherine Keener) who is on the run. Directed by Steven Soderbergh
- THE GREAT ESCAPE (15):** A 3-D feature, featuring unrighteous, scabrous characters, and an overly tedious plot. With Peter Hooton and Liz Stauber. Director, Brett Leonard
- THE EEL (15):** Shohet Imshary's idiosyncratic and humane drama about a man paroled after serving time for murdering his wife. With Koji Yakusho and Miki Shimizu
- BLADE (15):** Estranged, jumbled horror fantasy, fun for a time, with Wesley Snipes as the vampire-hunting action hero from the pages of Marvel Comics. With Stephen Dorco, Director, Stephen Norrington
- FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (15):** Terry Gilliam's indigestible and wearisome version of Hunter S. Thompson's novel about a journalist on the verge of insanity. With Johnny Depp and Benicio Del Toro
- MY NAME IS JOE (15):** Reformed Glasgow alcoholic begins an awkward romance with a healthcare worker. Impassioned marvel from director Ken Loach. With Peter Mullan and Lindsay Godall
- THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG):** Jim Carrey discovers he has been caught on camera for TV. Metaphorical and intelligent satire, directed by Peter Jackson. With Laura Linney and Noah Emmerich
- ELIZABETH (15):** Cate Blanchett magnificent as the young Queen Elizabeth in the lovely costume drama. With Geoffrey Rush, Joseph Fiennes, and Christopher Eccleston. Director, Shekhar Kapur

**OPERA & BALLET**

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Ullrich, Jan. 4, Mon-Sat 7.30, 8.30  
Main Box 10-Jan 4, Jan 5 & 23-25  
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The Nutcracker  
The Royal Opera House  
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# A year for puritans and vultures

Michael Gove ventures his political predictions for 1999

The crystal ball is an incongruous addition to my desk. Anyone who has written a book entitled *Michael Portillo: the Future of the Right* cannot expect an easy ride as a forecaster. But this week I should like to try. At least, I may console myself, I never attempted a biography of Robin Cook, or even Peter Mandelson.

Mr Mandelson's body on the gibbet may well act as a warning to anyone attempting to discern the future. But the manner of his going will shape the year ahead in certain ways. A chapter in the life of this Government has closed, one written in lavender.

The giddy period of liberal exultation, comparable in its way to the liberation of Paris in 1944, is over. Those on the social democrat wing of the Labour Party will have to downplay the social and accentuate the democrat.

The Government, in an attempt to reassert its seriousness, will take a more puritan turn. Expect to see Jack Straw assume a more prominent role, memories of how he

1940, he despised of the values of his own side, and saw the enemy as irresistible. Like the general, he consented to the carving up of his patrimony in order to preserve a portion of it, apparently inviolate. But the lingering remnants of the hereditary peerage, the Vichy Lords, would have been, like Pétain's Government, a puppet creation to be dispensed with at the enemy's pleasure. Mr Hague, like General de Gaulle, has refused to contemplate defeat. That is the inevitable precondition of victory.

Next year will not be easy. The coming into being of Welsh, Scottish and Ulster assemblies will create pressure for an English nationalist response. Expected victories in local elections will embolden party reactionaries who believe that the electorate, not the Tories, got it wrong in 1997. And the emergence of sleaze as an issue which can tarnish Labour as effectively as it did the Tories will also encourage the drabber *fonctionnaires* of the Conservative Party into believing that Labour will do their work for them. But if the Tories are ever to win convincingly, they must start to develop a convincing anti-Government ideology to give voters something to believe in again. Which brings me to Michael Portillo.

It is in both Mr Portillo's interest, and Mr Hague's, that the former Defence Secretary does not stand in any by-election next year, or the year after that. He should wait until the general election before inviting the electorate to pass judgment on him. He would make a fine Foreign Secretary in a Hague Government. And a better subject for a new biographer than the current incumbent.

John Redwood's office, which has been raising questions about Wachner's largesse towards Mandelson, is now urging the former minister to come clean. John Berrow, the Tory MP and aide to the Shadow Trade Minister, says: "While I have no personal interest in his choice of underwear, it would avert future embarrassment if he were to make a full disclosure."

I hope Elizabeth Filkin, the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, does not end up having to check Mandelson's labels.

ANGELA LANSBURY suffered the worst moment of her life when her first husband, Richard Cromwell, walked out on her after less than a year of marriage because he was a homosexualist. "I was absolutely shattered," she

another minority will be. The Liberal Democrats will be gasping for freedom. If, as expected, the party allies with Labour in the Scottish assembly, much as its leader wishes to do at Westminster, then a formidable price will be paid. Those rural voters, predominantly disaffected Conservatives, who have sustained the Lib Dems so far, will grow mutinous. It is no coincidence that those Lib Dems most suspicious of cosying up to Mr Blair, Malcolm Bruce and Charles Kennedy, are both Scots. The sound Paddy Ashdown can hear above him in Kosovo this winter is not the UN helicopter but the vultures circling.

They have squawked already this year over Smith Square. But William Hague has seen them off. While Mr Blair has been weakened by the resignation of one intriguer, Mr Hague has been strengthened by the sacking of another. The breach with Robert Cranborne was a sad farewell to a distinguished warrior. But it was a necessary sacrifice. Vicecount Cranborne was the Tories' General Pétain. Like the general, in an attempt to reassert its seriousness, will take a more puritan turn. Expect to see Jack Straw assume a more prominent role, memories of how he

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# With friends like these

Mandelson has exposed the dangers of Labour's mutual admiration society

If I had to choose between betraying my country and betraying my friend," wrote E.M. Forster. "I hope I should have the guts to betray my country." He meant to shock, like all good polemicists, but sets up a quiver of uneasy, universal truth. Most of us have compromised a principle out of loyalty to a friend. If it is a big principle it often dooms the friendship; but only the sternest never do it at all. Closing ranks is a gut instinct.

Which is why, especially at this season, there is fascination in the case of Peter Mandelson, Geoffrey Robinson, Tony Blair and the magic inner circles of new Labour. Christmas is much touted as a time for families, and so it is. But it is also a time which focuses all kinds of friendship. There are the closest friends, by your fireside in the central days; then there are the ones you miss in this fortnight because custom dictates that you see relatives instead. Beyond that, a distant cadre of treasured names on cards from far away; old friends of youth, new friends whose importance will grow. There are friends who share your visions and others who disagree about everything except that you must have lunch again soon. There are people nobody else can stand, and others who form an entangled part of a triangle or circle.

The Mandelson affair has been all about friendship, and brought home forcibly the fact that it is not only romantic love which has its perils. It was instructive to read the defences mounted at the weekend by those who are fond of the former Secretary of State and loyal to him. All of them managed to miss the point entirely. "Unwise," said Mr Blair. "And he paid a heavy price..." Others chimed in: Carla Powell with a moving account of the hard-working Mandelson's hours of dedication fuelled only on hot water and lemon, Derek Draper on his friend's "vulnerability", and Robert Harris, who sounds the nicest of them all, on the man his children called "the Secretary-in-a-state", the *habitué de la maison* who is not corrupt but merely "too colourful, clever and exotic for his own good". Only a shameful "skinhead" press, he writes indignantly, could so pulverise Mr Mandelson.

Hmm. With the hood of friendship over the eyes, there are things which cannot be spotted even by the usually

clear-sighted Robert Harris (since you ask — no, he is not a friend of mine). What none of them can see, through the veil of mutually protective affectionate arrogance, is how bad the whole thing looked from outside when the news broke last week of Mr Robinson's secret loan. Beyond the charmed circle of new Labour intimates, jaws genuinely dropped and real gasps were heard. "Oh God," people said. "So that's it. That must be why Blair can't seem to shift off Robinson, in spite of all the embarrassment. He's bought them all." "How many more?" asked others. "Who and what else is the Paymaster paying for?" The frenzy of

lead the very ministry which is engaged in a serious investigation into the business dealings of the lender? What procedural "insulation" can possibly be adequate to the subject of the £373,000 that lies between them? Were the civil servants on the inquiry not entitled to know, as rumours passed to and fro, that their minister's friendship with Geoffrey Robinson was so very thoroughly oiled? No, sorry; it stank. It shocked, it unerved.

Mr Blair tried to face down the interviewer by talking of his higher preoccupation with the welfare of Gulf bomber pilots and saying: "You know, I have an awful lot that comes across my desk." But friends in his class and type all incessantly about their house deals; and when this particular deal was done — a new home for his close, close friend, a man close enough to stay with his family the night of the resignation — Blair was not even Prime Minister. He had not yet had to make the decision to elevate his friend to a position of high trust. Clearly, he asked no questions before he did. As the proverb goes: "Love is blind, friendship closes its eyes." It is possible to honour Mr Blair for his loyalty, while regretting that his eyes were quite so firmly closed.

But this is the risk, in circles of friends. The corruption of cronies is potentially the strongest corruption of all (read almost any set of literary review pages for a month or two, and you can see how creepy a world gets when it refuses to separate the social from the professional). The cheerful aspect is that Mr Blair may now have realised this, and be the stronger for it as well as the sadder. It was a lesson much needed. For this is an age which has rediscovered and elevated friendship, perhaps because of the uncertain nature of marriage and the decline of corporate loyalty. Friends are as trendy as *Friends* and "elective families" are all the rage. New Labour has proved in tune with the spirit of the age by visibly operating as a tight, loyal, supportive inner circle of chosen ones. Sure, there are factions within that circle, but they overlap generously; Geoffrey Robinson moved, smooth as Croesus, easily in both Brown and Blair camps.

This buddy politics has led to all kinds of anomalies: excellent ministers have been sidelined or undermined because they are not part of the club; hiring press officers have larded it over elected ministers, a coterie of writers, thrilled at their old mates being real ministers, have fobbed off the reading public with disingenuously partisan plaudits of those at whose kitchen table they dine. For all their talk of "the people", there has been a strong impression that the only people the new governmental golden-boys really feel at home with are bestselling novelists and bra millionairesses and PR whizz-kids and pally tycoons and old-mate journalists and one another. Fine; but if so, government is the wrong place for them.

Peter Mandelson stood at the centre of this sweet, sticky web of mutual admiration. This original man's temporary demise (he'll be back, and good luck to him) can best be used to recite some glumly unoriginal old saws. Never trust a man whose friends are all useful and professionally suitable. Duty before friendship. Don't mix business and pleasure. No such thing as a free lunch. Neither a borrower nor a lender be, for loan off loses both, itself, and friend. Yes, they're dreary, aren't they? Useful, though.

## Libby Purves

about his ban on staghunting, the lively writer on countryside matters has attacked the organisation for an obsession with interior decorations.

"The unselfconscious muddle of a family household gives way to an 'authentic' interior, conducted by a fashionable Chelsea decorator," Scruton tells me. "But the design is not concocted for anyone. The decorator does not paper over the traces of one life in order to prepare it for another but to extinguish life for ever. His task is to create not a home, but a museum."

Scruton is robustly supported by families who have had to hand

over their old piles to the trust: "The major difference is that a curator lives in one part of the house and the rest of the building is left shuttered," says Felicity Waley-Cohen, whose family moved out of Upton House, near Banbury, in 1948. "The trust has no personality, it's a bureaucracy."

Thankfully, the decorations at Diary Towers remain firmly under my own control.

STEPHEN FRY'S newest scribbles promise to be as exotic as his past. A friend who has read an early draft of the comedian's newest manuscript tells me: "I'll never be able to think of a lamb curry in the same way again." Since an adolescent boy became a wee bit too matey with a horse in Fry's earlier work, *The Hippopotamus*, I shudder to think what can be in store for us this time round.



who give the angelic Aung San Shu Kyi a hard time. Eatchett's chaps tell me that, after the minister's intervention, Anthea's colleagues wrote back to say they would keep clear. The junta in Rangoon would appreciate the minister's influence over the British media.

TO MAKE it into the Dictionary of National Biography, due out in 2004, potential participants must die before the end of 1999; the closing date for the next edition.

JASPER GERARD

## Tested to the limits

Challenge is a vital need, says Robin Knox-Johnston

The tragic loss of life in the Sydney to Hobart race, including that of the Olympic sailor Glyn Charles, inevitably raises questions about the safety of ocean racing and whether yachtsmen are gratuitously risking their own lives as well as those involved in the rescue services.

The race was established to be the southern hemisphere's equivalent of the Fastnet race. It covers almost exactly the same distance and is designed to test yachts and crews. Like any ocean race, it is subject to all weather conditions and, although both races take place in their hemisphere's summer, we know from the Fastnet in 1979 that these can include gales and, occasionally, storms.

Ocean racing is more than just a competition between human beings on boats. Though, for sailors, the main purpose is to test other competitors, they have chosen to do so in an arena where nature, in its most violent manifestation, becomes the real competition. If occasionally tragedies occur, it is because sport is all about pushing oneself to the limits, and we can never discover where those margins lie unless we strive in the toughest competition. This always involves risk.

The Sydney to Hobart race has a bad record of foul weather because it takes place right on the edge of the Southern Ocean, the huge cold, vicious area of emptiness where the waves can roll right around the world. There, without any land barriers to break their development, there is nothing to check the build-up of weather systems, which is why it is the region of the strongest sustained winds on the sea surface anywhere and where the largest waves are to be found.

It is the place where nature can be its most violent, pushing millions of tons of water up into enormous waves that stretch from horizon to horizon, while rushing forward at more than 30 knots. The sight is awesome and terrifying.

Off Australia, the dangers are augmented by a south-running current down the eastern coast, which, when it encounters a strong southerly, known locally as the Southerly Buster, produces waves that can be extremely short and steep — the most dangerous situation for a small boat.

This is what has happened on this occasion and, as conditions deteriorated, many of the sailors judged that both crews and boats had reached their limits. More than half of the fleet sensibly decided to withdraw and head for shelter. This decision is made by skippers, because they are the people on the spot. It is not for the race organiser to cancel the race, because he is not aboard.

Sailing is a safe sport, statistically, for the millions who participate. But its safety record is achieved by training and gathering experience. Seamanhood cannot be learnt from books; it is a hands-on skill. To become good seamen, people must sail out to the oceans and study the wind and waves and the reaction of a boat to both. If we start to ban difficult races, or cancel them at the whim of a bad weather forecast, we are not just encouraging a lowering in standards, we are ensuring that the quality of seamanhood will fall.

Glyn Charles was aboard the *Sword of Orion*, which had already withdrawn from the race and was heading back under storm sails. The crew was not under any time pressure and so could adjust the boat's course to provide the easiest motion. Nevertheless, the yacht was caught by a particularly mean wave. Some waves simply cannot be avoided and Glyn, who was on the helm and harnessed to the boat, was swept over the side. It is a tragic loss, but we can be certain that it will not be the last such loss.

Tough races are popular simply because they are demanding. No one enters them thinking they are going to get into trouble, but they know that the oceans can be extremely dangerous, and therein lies the challenge. There is no satisfaction in achieving something easy; a challenge has to be hard and risky for it to be worthwhile. Human beings are programmed to rise to challenges — this is why we are at the top of the evolutionary tree.

For many of us, a life without mental and physical challenges would be a life without colour or stimulus. We react in differing ways according to our characters — some people climb mountains, some try to balloon around the world. And those who feel the call of the sea, search for the hardest races. It is because they want to stand a little taller than their friends who have not competed in such a tough event. They also want the satisfaction of knowing that they have achieved something special. The greater risk adds the spice, makes the adrenalin course, the eyes brighter, the senses fully alert. Yes, it is dangerous, but it brings real meaning to living. If society wants to then the whole human species might, as well be castrated.

Sir Robin was the first person to sail solo, non-stop around the world.

comment@the-times.co.uk

## In brief...

WHO provides Peter Mandelson's briefs? I do not mean the documents drafted by Whitehall types, rather the source of the former Trade Secretary's smalls. After admitting to free flights and hospitality from America's largest underwear manufacturer, Mandelson is now to be questioned as to whether his underwear is also a gift. As head of the Warnaco Group, Linda Wachner makes fashionable Calvin Klein boxers (right), and Wendy is notorious for his snappy dressing: only a chosen few realise his magnificent demeanour is often underpinned by a pair of the elegant briefs.

John Redwood's office, which has been raising questions about Wachner's largesse towards Mandelson, is now urging the former minister to come clean. John Berrow, the Tory MP and aide to the Shadow Trade Minister, says: "While I have no personal interest in his choice of underwear, it would avert future embarrassment if he were to make a full disclosure."

I hope Elizabeth Filkin, the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, does not end up having to check Mandelson's labels.

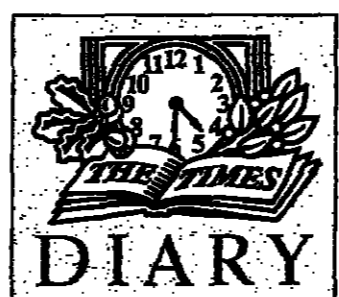
ANGELA LANSBURY suffered the worst moment of her life when her first husband, Richard Cromwell, walked out on her after less than a year of marriage because he was a homosexualist. "I was absolutely shattered," she



admits in her new biography. "Everyone knew it but me."

On the move

BARONESS THATCHER'S neighbour is on the move. Lord Hindlip, the Christie's director who placed a protective hand over the backside of Diana, Princess of Wales, last year, is selling his house in Chester Square for £7 million. Thatcher has owned a property in the same square since 1991 and



has entertained her close friends therein, including General August to Pincott. Whether her taste in chums is to blame for her house being valued far more modestly is something I leave you, dear reader, to ponder.

THE intellectual rigour of Liberal Democrat MPs. Bob Russell asked a public meeting: "Why is it that cauliflowers do not taste the same today as they did when I was a small boy?" The politician received an appropriate response: "Once you reach a certain age your taste buds, like all your other faculties, decline."

Trust them

THE poor old National Trust has come under fire once again from Roger Scruton. After complaining



"By Mr Brown, not in the lobby, with a leak"

No-go zone

ANTHEA TURNER (right) has been saved from a mosquito-ridden trip to Burma by Derek Faichett. The *Wish You Were Here* team planned to film a Christmas special from the Asian country until the Foreign Minister stepped in. He urged the television travellers to boycott the country because it is run by dodgy military types





STRAW POLL

The Home Secretary outlines a strong election commission

Exactly one year ago Jack Straw was at the centre of a storm concerning his son's apparent willingness to acquire cannabis for an undercover reporter.

In his interview with The Times today, Mr Straw covers a broad cross-section of his responsibilities. The most revealing aspects of his remarks concern the proposed election commission, recommended by the Neill committee in October and destined to be the centrepiece of a radical new system for the funding of politics in this country.

The proposal to place the promotion of electoral turnout and civic education more broadly within the ambit of the election commission avoids the danger of different government agencies struggling to control this initiative.

The real issue of low turnout must also be addressed. This is not, though, primary

by a dilemma at the national level. The modest 72 per cent participation at the last general election reflected an especially long campaign whose final outcome was hardly in doubt. In the very different context of the 1992 ballot, turnout was 6 per cent higher.

The Home Secretary is also right to render more precise the Neill committee's recommendations on referendums. These were meant to make clear that although ministers acting as party politicians would play a central part in any contest, the Government itself should not produce allegedly factual information that will inevitably be seen as an attempt to influence the electorate.

If legislation proceeds along the lines that Mr Straw suggests then it should be possible to achieve maximum party consensus and minimum political controversy. An election commission, irrespective of its size and scope, cannot by itself produce campaigns that are models of civility and exemplary practice: it will still be dealing with politicians. But there is at least every chance that the organisation which does eventually emerge from the Home Office will start life with near universal backing.

ROCKET MAN

Wernher von Braun and the morality of science

The 1940s were the cruelest decade the world has ever seen. The Second World War killed an estimated 50 million people. Yet like every conflict, it brought extraordinary advances in science and learning.

Few men exemplify the evil of the times, the moral amnesia and the subsequent redirection of knowledge acquired for battle as Wernher von Braun, the German engineer who designed and built the deadly V2 rockets for Hitler.



PEOPLE OF THE CENTURY

conceived by the Allies. Propelled by liquid oxygen and alcohol, it weighed nearly 12 tons at take-off and could carry a one-ton warhead 200 miles, ascending to heights of 70 miles and achieving a speed of 3,500 miles an hour.

But these successes hid the fact that like most Nazi advances, Braun's scientific knowledge was poisoned fruit. The captured V2 technology was so vital in giving the West a head start over Moscow that the horrors of the underground slave labour workshops where the weapons were assembled were suppressed. No V2 scientists were ever prosecuted, and von Braun himself was never confronted with the knowledge that he had willingly used the atrocities of Nazism to advance his projects.

THE DOMINIONS OF DEATH

Cemeteries could become sanctuaries for wildlife

Death's dominion need not be gloomy. Some of the greatest wonders of the world - the Great Pyramid of Cheops, for example, or the mausoleum of Heliogabalis - were built for funereal purposes.

elegy Adonais. Shelley writes of a visit to John Keats's tomb. There he found solace in the wild flowers, the violets and daisies which clambered among the ruins.

The potential of graveyards has been too often neglected. Green grass chips save on grass-tending costs, polished granite headstones prevent the creeping growth of lichen, artificial flowers fade and fall over. But, scattered through every town and village of Britain, these dead spaces could be made fruitful. They should become a part of the fabric of the natural environment and the community.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Power, place and Peter Mandelson

From Mr Keith Simpson, MP for Mid Norfolk (Conservative)

Sir, It was indeed ironic that on December 22, the day Peter Mandelson was forced to resign from the Government, you decided to profile Reginald Bray, the 2nd Viscount Esher, under "People of the Century".

Quite rightly, you emphasised that Lord Esher exercised influence through an unusual combination of charisma, intelligence and loyalty. An Edwardian eminence grise, he could be compared to the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

However, unlike Peter Mandelson, Lord Esher, having briefly served as a Liberal MP, decided he did not like the rough and tumble of party politics and preferred to exercise his undoubted influence away from political and public office and behind closed doors.

It remains to be seen whether Mr Mandelson can disprove Lord Esher's saying that "Power and Place are not often synonymous".

Yours faithfully, KEITH SIMPSON, House of Commons, December 24.

From Mr Nick Vinehill

Sir, Peter Mandelson's resignation is a fitting and refreshing development for a Labour Party which has for too long been blighted by the corruptive influence of modernisation.

His transactions, combined with other unrelated scandals such as the Formula One affair, epitomise how new Labour's "election-winning" strategy was no more than a capitulation to the global economic system that was characterised by the turmoil on the financial markets earlier this year.

As long as these Mandelson archetypes remain at the helm, "misjudgments" like this will be as endemic to this Government as they were to the last. Hopefully, Mr Mandelson's departure, along with worsening economic problems, may trigger a leftward thrust for Labour that will end the wretched, bipartisan consensus which has inhibited the voicing of real arguments for change.

Yours faithfully, NICK VINEHILL, 3 Manor Lane, Snettisham, Norfolk PE31 7NH, December 28.

From Mr John Pincham

Sir, The Mandelson/Robinson affair highlights the demands of high politics which leave little time for earning money. A terraced house, with space to work near Parliament in "fashionable" London, costs as much as a country mansion in the North. Emmeshed in the fray, personal matters may be neglected.

For county councillors one must recruit from the rich, retired and redundant, or from those few with paid jobs which can be abandoned when the county calls.

All elections depend to a large extent on the physical effort and financial support of a few elderly volunteers, while those for counties, boroughs, districts and parishes are denied even a free post. Beguiled into joining a party, one is forever bombarded with pleas for money.

Are things better organised in other countries?

Yours faithfully, JOHN PINCHAM (Surrey County Councilor), 15 Lodge Close, Stoks D'Abernon, Surrey KT11 2SG December 26.

From Mr Anthony Nelson

Sir, Neither a borrower nor a lender be. ANTHONY NELSON (Minister of State, HM Treasury, 1994-95, and Department of Trade and Industry, 1995-97), The Old Vicarage, Easebourne, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 0AL, December 24.

From Mr Pat Buckley

Sir, My recent retirement from teaching has given me the chance to pay more attention to your newspaper. I do not wish to seem uncouth, but you offer each day reports, articles and leaders, cartoons, photographs and letters that are informative, stimulating and witty - in exaggerated abundance. This is too good to be good. When am I to learn the besoon, read Proust or paint the house?

Rights of audience for salaried CPS lawyers

From Professor Michael Zander, QC

Sir, In the Lord Chancellor's defence of his proposal to give salaried CPS lawyers full rights of audience in the Crown Court (letter, December 17; see also Sir Michael Ogden's letter, December 8) he argues that they will be sufficiently independent of their employers. My own view is that he is mistaken on this vital question.

The problem is nothing to do with the quality or integrity of the lawyers. It is to do with the institutional and bureaucratic pressures that arise unavoidably from being an employee of an organisation. The Access to Justice Bill tries to address the matter in a provision stating that every advocate "has a duty to the court to act in the interests of justice" which overrides any inconsistent duty - for instance to an employer.

But those are mere words. They are unlikely to exercise much sway over CPS lawyer employees concerned with performance targets set by their line managers. The CPS as an organisation is constantly under pressure in regard to the proportion of discontinuances, acquittal and conviction rates. These are factors in the day-to-day work of every CPS lawyer. It is disingenuous to imagine that they do not have a powerful effect on decision-making.

In the Crown Court Study I conducted for the Runciman Royal Commission on Criminal Justice during 1993, I asked respondents to bring to the attention of the commission any matter of concern. The main general concern identified by prosecution barristers was disagreements with and undue pressure from the CPS on individual cases.

Iraq diplomacy

From Mr Ivor Lucas

Sir, Your assessment in today's leader, "Diplomatic offensive", of the diplomatic fallout from Desert Fox claims that "much more important" than hostile street demonstrations are certain private assurances from Arab leaders.

Maybe, in the short term - though even that is debatable. In the long run it is more likely that those friendly regimes which the bombing was in part intended to protect against Saddam Hussein will be weakened internally. Their close association with Western governments which have attacked Iraq but failed to deliver on the "peace process" will (rightly or wrongly) be seen by their own people as a dereliction of their Arab duty.

It will not be the first time that Western policies in the Middle East have backfired, but we never seem to learn the lesson.

Yours faithfully, IVOR LUCAS (Head of Middle East Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 1975-79), 65 Newstead Way, SW19 5HR, December 22.

From Mr Michael Travers-Drapes

Sir, In the debate on whether it is morally justified to bomb an evil tyrant when there is a strong possibility that innocent civilians will be killed, are we not forgetting the racial element?

The people of Iraq are in the same position as hostages. I have no doubt that if there were any danger of sub-

Utterance at fault

From Mr John Davie

Sir, In his review of Simon Hefler's biography of Enoch Powell (Books, December 17) Robert Shepherd points out the "error" of Powell making "the Roman" rather than the Sybil (sic) foresee "the river Tiber foaming with much blood". Virgil's hero Aeneas is, however, never described by the poet as Roman, as Powell would have known; he is Trojan Aeneas, whose mission is to found the Roman race.

The "Roman" is surely Virgil himself (despite the strange Biffen story) - the "Roman Virgil" of Petronius and Tennyson, who gave the prophetess her fateful words. On the subject of error, Shepherd's spelling assigns this apocalyptic vision, not to Virgil's seer, but to the wife of Basil Fawlty.

Yours faithfully, JOHN DAVIE, 79 Wellesley Avenue, Richings Park, Buckinghamshire SL0 9BP, December 17.

Winter clean-up

From Mrs José Fernández

Sir, Coming late to the table for several meals my husband said he was busy defragmenting his computer. When asked to explain, he said he was tidying up his hard disk and rearranging the bits and pieces in a more orderly state.

I have asked him to defragment the garage after Christmas.

exercises full rights of audience that creative tension between differing views will be lost. The decision as to how to handle the case, whether to accept a plea and, if so, to what charges, etc, will be handled by the CPS alone.

In my view, that will result in a regrettable deterioration of decision-making in serious criminal cases. The loss will be in the quality of that elusive concept, justice.

Yours etc, MICHAEL ZANDER, 12 Woodside Avenue, N6 4SS, December 18.

From Mr B. H. Slater

Sir, The Lord Chancellor and I share a common heritage - he was a few years ahead of me at school in Glasgow. The reasoning which he advances for employing CPS barristers in the Crown Court would have dismayed our common teachers.

He states that if an independent barrister is sacked by his client (and, by implication, is not paid) there is no form of redress. On the contrary, the redress is the most powerful known to a professional man: if the solicitor does not pay the barrister's fee he is reported to the Bar Council, will be disallowed credit by barristers throughout the country and severely disciplined by the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors. No wonder barristers do not want or need a formal contract with their clients.

I have worked as defence duty solicitor in the magistrates' court for 15 years. Any CPS prosecutor will tell you how important it is that trials are won, that records are kept and that a major factor in promotion is the ability to secure convictions.

To be sacked by a client can scarcely be paralleled with being sacked by an

employer. A barrister in private practice has a vast range of clientele; sacked by one client he moves on to the next. A sacking by the employer, the CPS, is the end of the barrister's entire relationship with the party that holds the purse strings.

Cases are regularly taken to the Crown Court judge so that fine points of law can be argued. In the whitewash of the magistrates' court these subtleties are lost or never put. I have no doubt that removing the independence of prosecuting counsel in the Crown Court will change the entire nature of justice in this country, and the public will never know.

Yours sincerely, B. H. SLATER, Slater Links (solicitors), 22-24 Broad Street, Bury, Lancashire BL9 0DA.

From Mr John Snell

Sir, During a part of each year I see the higher criminal courts in action in South Australia. Salaried prosecutors there perform their duties with total integrity and professionalism. But their system is superior to ours, not least because there are fewer cases and more careful preparation by the police and the prosecuting authorities. Here it is the increasing slowness in that process against which the independent barrister is the principal bulwark.

The judges know this. Bad faith seldom comes into it. Lord Irvine cannot say that standards in the higher courts will improve with salaried prosecutors. Better advocacy should be the only criterion for change.

Yours ever, JOHN SNELL (Head of Chambers), 27 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE, December 17.

South Bank sounds

From Mr J. B. MacGill

Sir, I am very glad to see the poor quality of the acoustics in the Royal Festival Hall being publicised (letters, December 11 and 17) because, in pre-concern open discussions, I have often heard this confirmed by musicians who regularly play in concerts there.

Last month, I heard the managing director of one of our top orchestras state, also at a pre-concert talk, that he was ashamed to invite soloists to play with his orchestra at the Barbican for this reason. They would only come to play there, he said, if they were also promised concerts at the new halls in Birmingham and Manchester.

Why are we preserving the Barbican and the RFH as listed buildings when they are patently not fit for their purpose? Why does London have no large concert hall in which an orchestra wants to play?

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, J. B. MACGILL, The Wilderness, St George's Lane, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7ES, December 17.

From Mr John B. Harris

Sir, I was in a test audience at the Royal Festival Hall when a revolver was fired (Mr Michael Lea's letter, December 17). When real performances began, my friends and nearly all the music critics in the press agreed that it was not quite like the Queen's Hall, it was very good and vastly better than the Albert Hall as it then was.

For Ernest Newman of The Sunday Times, the hall was one of the works of the Socialist Government, and so had to be damned. "Music," he wrote, "was never meant to be heard as clearly as this" (for words to that effect).

Yours faithfully, JOHN B. HARRIS, 15 Charlwell House, 12 Ladbrooke Terrace, W11 3PG, December 17.

Branson's glasses

From Professor Alec Eden

Sir, At the end of the Sixties I was involved in research into one of the oldest phenomena known to induce sleep - monotony. The results were presented at the European Congress on Sleep Research held in Varna, Bulgaria, in 1972, as a scientific report entitled Acoustic and visual monotonous stimuli in the induction of sleep. An electronic apparatus incorporating headphones and spectacles with light-emitting diodes was later manufactured under licence by a German medical instrument company.

The success of this device was limited by the necessity to wear an uncomfortable headpiece in bed. I was surprised - some 30 years later - to read the report by your Science Editor (December 22) headed "Hi-tech glasses that put Branson to sleep", on the use of "pulsed light and sound fed to his eyes and ears to stimulate the patterns of sleep". Does the fact that Richard Branson uses something automatically make it "hi-tech"?

Yours sincerely, ALEC EDEN, The Thatched House, Mead Road, Torquay TQ2 6TF, December 22.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey, London SW1 at 3.15 pm on Monday, March 8, 1999. Later...

Forthcoming marriage

Mr G.M. MacDonald and Miss J.H. Grayson. The engagement is announced between Graham, elder son of Mr R.C. MacDonald, of Cheltenham, and Mrs D. Holdfield, of Cam, Gloucestershire, and Judith, elder daughter of Mr K.R. Grayson and Mrs Grayson, of Malvern, Worcestershire.

Birthdays today

June Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, 85; Sir Richard Beaumont, diplomat, 86; Lord Beaverbrook, 87; Sir Samuel Brittan, journalist, 65; Mr John Connell, former chairman, Berrill's, 74; Mr Bernard Cribbins, actor, 70; Baroness Denton of Wakefield, 63; General Sir Robert Ford, 75; Mr Andrew Foster, Controller, Audit Commission for Local Authorities and the NHS in England and Wales, 54; Mr David Hall, former Chief Constable, Humberside, 68; Sir Simon Hornby, President, Royal Horticultural Society, 64; Mr Martin Offiah, rugby league player, 32; Mrs Rosalind Preston, former President, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 63; the Right Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, 62; Sir Kenneth Sharp, accountant, 72; Mr Harvey Smith, show jumper, 60; Mr John Voight, actor, 60; Sir Edward Williams, former Commissioner-General, Expo 88, Brisbane, 77.

University news

Oxford: Lucy Cousins, formerly of Wycombe Abbey School, Bucks; Kathryn Deyes, formerly of Waltham Toll Bar School, Grimsby; Clare Flynn, formerly of Paes Grammar School, Cheltenham; Jill Henderson, formerly of Wallace High School, Co Antrim; Thomas Hinton, formerly of Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucestershire; David Hole, formerly of Millfield School, Somerset; Sarah King, formerly of Central Newcastle High School, Newcastle upon Tyne; Anna Lawrence, formerly of The Perse School for Girls, Cambridge; Ilona Prynce, formerly of Charterhouse, Sarah Simcock, formerly of Silverdale School, Sheffield; Caroline Wilkinson, formerly of York College for Girls, York; Hoi Ying Yau, formerly of Victoria College, Belfast. Old Members Exhibitions: Emma Snow, formerly of Ellesmere College, Shropshire; Alan Wells, formerly of King Edward's School, Birmingham. To an Organ Scholarship 1999: Henry Capper-Allen, formerly of King's College School, London. To the Jesus College East Graduate Scholarship: Ms Zuzanna Dakai, MSc Budapest University, Hungary. To Meyrick Graduate Scholarships: Mr Graham Marshall, MPhys, University of Wales, Swansea; Mr Owen Marell, BA University of Wales, Aberystwyth. To the Jesus College Old Members Graduate Scholarships: Ms Catherine Bunting, BSc, University College London. To the Jesus College Graduate Scholarships: Mr Stephen Conway, M.Chem., Mr Brendon Lovett, M.Phys, Ms Elizabeth Lovell, BA Smith College, USA, Ms Catherine Wilson, M.Chem. To the Sir John Rhys Scholarship: Mr Maredudd ap Huw, M.Phil.

Poignant tokens of love left by convicts facing transportation

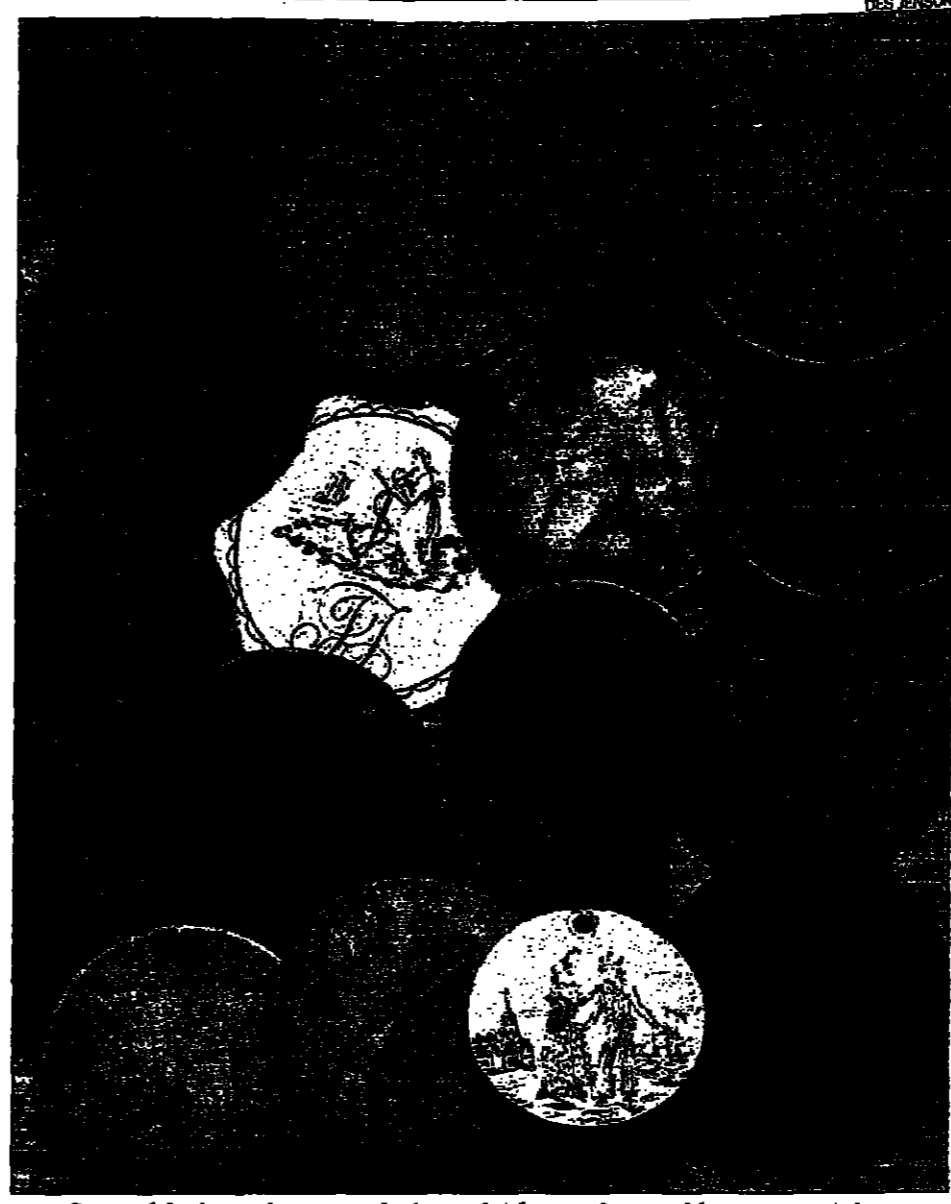
By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN EXTRAORDINARY collection of love tokens engraved by convicted Britons as farewell mementoes to loved ones before they were transported to Australia are to be exhibited in London.

Timothy Millett, a leading numismatist who has built up the collection since 1984, is lending it to the British Museum on January 13. He described the tokens as "the leaden hearts the convicts left behind". Most were sentenced for offences as petty as stealing a ribbon.

The tokens were scratched in prison cells on to the smoothed-out surface of copper pennies, just 36mm in circumference. Intended for sweethearts and family members, they carry poignant messages heavy with despair. "Far from my friends, far from my home, on a distant land I am to roam." "The gift is small but love is all." "How hard is my fate, how galling is my chain" - on which the figure of a man is depicted in leg chains.

While some messages are barely legible, they convey the pain of parting and the desperate need to be remembered. One shows a cottage surrounded by a pretty garden. The inscription reads: "This was once my cottage of peace. This is for my dear father from [his] unfortunate daughter who is going out of her cottage for life E.A." Most of the convicts believed they would return to Britain, but few did. Among



Some of the love tokens scratched on coins by convicts awaiting transportation

"Almost every word written about the Australian convicts has judged them - damned them, romanticised them, or conferred a martyrdom on them. Now we have a unique chance to see the convicts as they saw themselves, with their hearts on their sleeves and their engraving tools chiselling out the words 'Love' and 'Liberty'. Though many of the pictures on the coins

shows wine-drinking, flowers, the sun in the sky - the kind of images one associates with a summer holiday - these like 'May we live to meet again' bring the pain to the surface." She explained that they were a "time-filling hobby on the hulks". Mr Millett recalled how his grandfather, who founded the numismatist company Baldwin and Sons in London in 1923, had sold them years ago to a collector, a policeman on the South Coast. One day, that collector offered to sell them back and Mr Millett jumped at the chance. "I realised that people who aren't into coins generally regard the coin world as pretty dull, and this was a subject which even non-coin people found exciting. That triggered something in me."

Lorna Goldsmith, curator of modern coins at the British Museum, is excited at being able to exhibit the collection. "These are very moving. These people were confronted with something that seemed like death to them. They had no sense of what was going to happen to them. Some are very existentialist in their messages; others are very conventional. Some were illiterate and couldn't have composed their own messages."

She added: "The collection is extraordinary in terms of its quality. There are wonderful pieces in this collection. Yet this type of object hasn't until now been particularly valued. With this type of public face - the exhibition - this part of social history will be far more prominent." Estimating how many were made is hard, she explained: "About 162,000 people were transported. This collection has 200. Not a lot have survived. Many are believed to have been destroyed by families who preferred to eradicate 'the stain on the family name'; several examples in the collection have been defaced, the name removed."

Among descendants tracked down by Mr Millett was the late Stanley Burbury, former Governor and Chief Magistrate of Tasmania; his ancestor was Thomas Burbury, transported for his part in a Luddite uprising in which Coventry workers destroyed new machinery which they feared threatened their livelihoods. He made a token that reads: "T Burbury condemned March 26th 1832. When this you see think on me." His story at least had a happy ending: he became a wealthy landowner.



The harsh life that awaited them: convicts being force-marched in Tasmania

Sir William Bentley of Wimbledon, London SW19, left estate valued at £315,731 net. Lady (Muriel Mary) Maycock, of Bushey, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £385,707 net. Sir John David Nunes Nabarro, consultant physician, The Middlesex Hospital, London, 1954-81, of London N12, left estate valued at £380,452 net. Sir David Dudley Pryke, of Maldon, Essex, left estate valued at £195,576 net. Roger Owen Hay of London NW5, left estate valued at £4,637,378 net. Trevor Arthur Lloyd Davies,

of Elmdon, Safron Walden, Essex, left estate valued at £3,440,875 net. Percy Joseph William Dickens, of Caldecote, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £3,764,638 net. Annie Mary Wilson, of Saltburn-by-the-Sea, left estate valued at £3,277,079 net. She left £2,000 each to Saltburn Parish Church, the NSPCC, Cheshire Foundation and the RNLI. Harry Leslie Thorne, of Solihull, West Midlands, left estate valued at £2,135,417 net. Robert Allen, of Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,493,276 net. He left £100 to both Onward Bound Trust and STA Schooners (SAIL Training Association); the remainder of his estate between Age Concern England, Help the Aged, NSPCC, Save the Children, UNICEF - UK, Barnardos, RNLI, Royal College of Surgeons of England, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Oxfam, British Heart Foundation, British Red Cross (Dorset Branch), Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, the Lewis-Manning Cancer Trust, RSPCA, RNLI, Samaritans

Latest wills

Dorset Branch, Salvation Army, British Dental Association Benevolent Fund, Leonard Cheshire Foundation, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Cancer Research Campaign, NCH Action for Children, Royal Association in Aid of Deaf People, Royal British Legion, Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society, and The National Trust. Norman John Badham, of Stonegrave, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £1,054,904 net. George Ward Clegg, of East Throp, Cleveleys, Lancashire, left estate valued at £1,044,744 net. Julia Plaistowe, of Chesham

Bois, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,119,565 net. Adrian Philip Mewton Turner, of Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £1,784,229 net. Heather Collins, of Minehead, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,645,022 net. She left £5,000 each to PDSA, British Field Sports Society and Seabrody Parish Church; £2,500 to both the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the British Heart Foundation; £1,000 each to Minehead Harriers, Old Warhorse Memorial Hospital Fund, Adair Cole Memorial Stables, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Exmoor Pony Society, Animal Trust and Marie Curie Memorial Foundation.

Other appointments: Sister Lisa Done CA, Resettlement Officer, CA Marylebone Project for Homeless Women, to be CA Area Evangelist, Stroud Holy Trinity, Whiteshill and Radwick (Gloucester). Mr Alexis Mouraviev (Dick) Apostol to be a Lay Canon of the Pro-Cathedral Church of St Paul Valletta, Malta (Europe). Margaret Underdown, Social Worker, Southampton and Formby (Liverpool); to be Lay Missioner, Dudley St John Kate's Hill and Dudley St Thomas and St Luke (Worcester).

BMDs: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS: ELIOTT - Edith Agnes (née Coppinger), on Wednesday 23rd December peacefully, after a short illness, at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds. Dearly loved wife of Simon and mother of Jeremy and Jennifer. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Wisbech, on Thursday 29th December at 1.30 pm. No flowers please, but donations may be made to Friends of the West Suffolk Hospital, c/o L. Fulcher, 50 Whitling Street, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk.

DEATHS: RING - Priscilla Elizabeth (née Coppinger), on Wednesday 23rd December peacefully, after a short illness, at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds. Dearly loved wife of Simon and mother of Jeremy and Jennifer. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Wisbech, on Thursday 29th December at 1.30 pm. No flowers please, but donations may be made to Friends of the West Suffolk Hospital, c/o L. Fulcher, 50 Whitling Street, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk.

DEATHS: MARSHALL - Joan Leonora (née Coppinger), on Wednesday 23rd December peacefully, after a short illness, at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds. Dearly loved wife of Simon and mother of Jeremy and Jennifer. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Wisbech, on Thursday 29th December at 1.30 pm. No flowers please, but donations may be made to Friends of the West Suffolk Hospital, c/o L. Fulcher, 50 Whitling Street, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk.

DEATHS: THOMAS - David Arthur (Homes), on Wednesday 23rd December peacefully, after a short illness, at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds. Dearly loved husband of Margaret and father of Robert and Jennifer. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Wisbech, on Thursday 29th December at 1.30 pm. No flowers please, but donations may be made to Friends of the West Suffolk Hospital, c/o L. Fulcher, 50 Whitling Street, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk.

ANNIVERSARIES: CAZELL-CLARK - On 58th December 1943 at St Joseph's Church, Brompton Place, London W1 David to Isabel. Deo gratias.

FOR SALE: WORKING SUITS, EVENING TAIL SUITS, SURPLUS TO HIRE LIPMAN & SONS. West End Tel 0171 240 2210 22 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 3PL. Fax 0171 839 7721 158 Fenchurch St EC3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: YOUNG CHESA BUDGE and the family announce the death of their dear friend and neighbour Mrs Joan Mary Budge, on Wednesday 23rd December 1998, aged 82 years. Burial at St Andrew's Church, Chesham, on Thursday 24th December at 11.30 am. Enquiries to Mrs J. Budge, 158 Fenchurch St, London EC3.

WINTER SPORTS: THE TIMES CHRISTMAS PERIOD. The following deadlines will apply for Personal Advertisements and Public, Legal, Parliamentary and Legal Notices over the holiday period. PUBLICATION DATE DEADLINE: Wednesday 30th December 2.15pm, Thursday 31st December 2.15pm, Friday 1st January 12 noon, Saturday 2nd January 12 noon, Sunday 3rd January 12 noon, Monday 4th January 12 noon.

DELTA WORLDWIDE. To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880. Includes contact information for Delta WorldWide and a small logo.

OBITUARIES

CAPTAIN WILLIAM MEEKE

Captain William Meeke, MBE, DSC and Bar, wartime submarine captain, died in Malta on December 3 aged 84. He was born on May 22, 1914.

Serving in operational submarines throughout the Second World War, William Meeke was also involved in the development of X-craft - miniature two-man submarines designed for clandestine attacks on enemy shipping in harbours. It was a technique which involved the release from the hull of the midgest submarine of large explosive charges fitted with timers while the submarine itself was directly underneath the target vessel.

Naturally the crews of the submarines could not possibly expect to survive the subsequent explosion. The best they could hope for was to escape from the X-craft and make for the surface, where a future as a prisoner of war almost certainly awaited them, assuming they were not first shot as combatants by the enemy before they could surrender.

Perhaps the most celebrated of these X-craft attacks was the immobilisation in September 1943 of the German battleship Tirpitz while she lay at anchor in Trondheim fiord. For this, the commanding officers of the surviving and successful X-craft, Lieutenant Donald Cameron and Lieutenant Basil Place, were both awarded the Victoria Cross.



Meeke on the bridge during one of his rare surface ship appointments

ations which were still in their infancy. Because the manufacturers could not know the purpose of the components they were making and by reason of the newness of the art, Meeke's account of the early days of this project is full of frustrating engineering problems and perilous evaluations. Among the most difficult of the training tasks was learning how to dress in the clammy and primitive diving suit of the day while in the confined space of the midgest submarine, and then to flood up an airlock in order to emerge under water without unbalancing the X-craft.

Having commanded the midgest submarines X3 and X5, Meeke returned to general submarine service before Operation Source, the crippling of the Tirpitz. But he was afterwards appointed MBE (military) in 1944 for his valuable contributions to the programme. The son of a Harley Street dentist, William Meeke joined the Royal Naval College Dartmouth in 1932 and volunteered for submarines in 1937. His first tour was in the submarine Sealion in the Mediterranean, from where he went as second-in-command of the Sturgeon from January 1940. He was awarded his first DSC as a result of "good service" during Sturgeon's patrols

against German shipping in the dangerous waters of the Skaggeak and off southern Norway. Meeke left Sturgeon in February 1941 to embark on his X-craft work, after which, in May 1943, he passed the commanding officer's qualifying course and took command of the submarine Una based at Blyth. Very soon he was moved to the newly-built Shalimar which he commanded in the Pacific. Arriving at Trincomalee in Ceylon in September 1944, Shalimar completed four operational patrols, making a substantial contribution to the complete destruction of Japan's maritime assets in the

region. The account of these highly active patrols show as many attacks made on the surface with gunfire as by torpedoes while submerged, and included numerous brushes with Japanese aircraft and submarine chasers. Luckily the S-Class submarines were a very handy design, able to make a crash dive in 30 seconds, and Shalimar was able to keep out of trouble in what were often perilous operations in relatively shallow waters. Meeke was awarded a Bar to his DSC.

At the end of hostilities, Meeke brought Shalimar home and afterwards spent three years with the Australian Navy's surface ships. His final submarine appointments included command of the Tubant and operational command of the 4th Submarine Squadron in Singapore until November 1953. Curiously for a submariner, his subsequent appointments favoured the Fleet Air Arm, and he was successively second-in-command of the aircraft carrier Ocean and of the naval air station at Hal Far in Malta. In 1958 he attended the US Naval War College and earned a glowing report from the celebrated American Admiral Arleigh Burke.

Promoted to captain, he commanded the frigate Lyr and, after a course at the Nao Defence College in Paris, was appointed to the British military staff in Washington. His final tour was in command of the minesweeping operations and trials for HMS Lochinvar on the Firth of Forth.

Retiring in 1966, he fulfilled a lifelong ambition and bought a Polish-built King's Armistyst class wooden sloop. This he named Cloa, the acronym for Consolidated Local Overseas Allowance - a joke fully to be appreciated only by those who received this esoteric naval payment.

His original intention was to sail from the Firth of Forth to the Maldives but for various reasons - including the blocking of the Suez Canal during the Six-Day War in 1967 - he settled in Malta. There he had many friends and he explored the Mediterranean basin in his boat until overtaken by ill-health in 1993. He never married.

ALISTAIR CUMMING

Alistair Cumming, former director of engineering, British Airways, died of cancer on November 29 aged 64. He was born on July 15, 1934.



Cumming: transformed BA's engineering activities

IN A career at Rolls-Royce, where he was manufacturing director at Bristol, and then at British Airways, Alistair Cumming was associated with a number of vital aircraft projects, ranging from jet engine production to the design and development of passenger aircraft and the management of spare parts.

At Rolls-Royce he developed and implemented innovative manufacturing technology and production techniques for the RB199 engine which powers the Tornado multi-role combat aircraft, one of Western Europe's biggest military programmes. He played a vital role in the technical support of Harrier operations during the Falklands campaign. And in the somewhat different civil aviation world of British Airways he was influential in the development of the Boeing 777 airliner.

During his 14 years with British Airways he transformed its engineering activities. Never afraid to challenge the status quo, he had a fearsome reputation for stamping out restrictive working practices and shaking the complacency out of a business. There were many managers of companies outside British Airways who sought his input into the practices of their workforces - "rattle their cages" when their businesses were ailing in the face of more efficient competition.

Alistair Cameron Cumming was educated at Monmouth School and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he graduated in mathematics. In 1956 he joined the Bristol Aeroplane Co as a graduate apprentice, and subsequently rose to become project engineer and manager of Concorde's Olympus engines at Bristol Siddeley in 1962. The Bristol plant was eventually to become Rolls-

Royce Bristol, and Cumming was its manufacturing director from 1978 to 1983.

When, in the spring of 1982, the Falklands war suddenly involved the Harrier jump jet in operating at ranges and in conditions never previously envisaged, it was Cumming who ensured that the aircraft's high-tech engines and components reached the task force on time.

In 1984 Cumming moved to British Airways as director of engineering. There, his immense intellectual capability combined with great determination ("a mind like a meat cleaver," as one contemporary put it) proved to be an irresistible force for change. He was determined to implement new ideas and carried his employees, the trade unions and fellow members of management along with him. Few men contributed so much to air safety.

He recognised that productivity had little to do with sweat on the brow. He would tell his managers: "Nobody comes to work to do a bad job.

Try to catch them doing something right."

Cumming was fascinated by Japanese engineering production methods and applied them both at Rolls-Royce and British Airways. Under his influence in the mid-1980s BA became a world leader in spare parts inventory management.

Later he played an important role in the specification and development of the twin-jet Boeing 777 long-range commercial transport, working together with its project leaders at Boeing to optimise its design and ensure that the aircraft met customer requirements. His final appointments with the airline were as managing director, British Airways Engineering, chief operating officer and director of profit development.

In retirement he and his second wife, Pamela, worked tirelessly for Operation Happy Child, an organisation committed to helping disadvantaged children. He is survived by her and by their three sons and a daughter.

SIR PETER MENZIES

Sir Peter Menzies, former chairman of the Electricity Council, died on December 13 aged 86. He was born on April 15, 1912.

PETER MENZIES was appointed to head the Electricity Council in 1972, and then ran it for the next five years - his stewardship covering the Arab oil embargo and the three-day week. Already a part-time member of the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), he had been almost a natural choice to lead the industry's policymaking body - most of whose other members knew him well. The appointment came, however, towards the end of a career, the bulk of which had been spent on the financial side of ICI.

Peter Thomson Menzies had been born at Chichester in Sussex (on the day the Titanic went down), the son of a Scottish pharmaceutical chemist who had been working there at the time. But he barely remembered his father who was gassed on the Somme three days after arriving in the trenches and died less than two years later from the effects.

His mother took her son back to Scotland, where he was brought up at Musselburgh by her and her sisters, some of whom had also been widowed by the war. A clever boy who won prizes at Musselburgh Grammar School, he went on to take a first in mathematics and natural philosophy (physics) at Edinburgh University.

He passed the exams for the Civil Service while still a student and was so confident of his degree that he began work at the Inland Revenue in his final university year. After six years, however, Menzies

was snapped up by ICI in 1939 to work as a tax expert in its Treasurer's department.

Retained by the company as a key figure during the war, he was evacuated with ICI to Welwyn Garden City - where he was to live for the rest of his life - and began his steady rise through the company's ranks. He became assistant



treasurer in 1947, deputy treasurer five years later and finance director in 1956. Dr Richard Beesling, soon to become a household name at British Airways, was one of his contemporaries on the board.

Menzies rose to be a deputy chairman of ICI in 1967 - five years before he was ap-

proached by the Heath Government to take over at the Electricity Council. He was knighted in 1972 when he moved there. In line with ICI's policy of encouraging its leading executives to gain experience outside, he also became not only chairman of the group's own Imperial Metal Industries but a director of National Westminster Bank and the Commercial Union Assurance Company.

In addition to his membership of the CEBG, he joined the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration and remained on this as well as the NatWest and CU boards until the age of 70. Menzies's soul remained in Scotland. He was a vice-president of Siol na Meannich - the society of the Clan Menzies - and took great pleasure in being appointed to the London executive committee of the Scottish Council (Development and Industry), which provided him with the opportunity to cross Hadrian's Wall from time to time. He became president of Unipelec, the international agency of the electricity industry, and a vice-president of the general assembly of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

A tall, slightly-built man who liked good company and plenty of laughter, he nonetheless spent much of his spare time on his own - striding through the Highlands or the footholds of Hertfordshire with only a dog at his heels.

Peter Menzies married his first wife Mary, whom he had known since schooldays, in 1938. Himself a Menzies, although unrelated, she died in 1992 and four years ago he married his second wife Muriel. She survives him, together with a son and daughter from his first marriage.

PROFESSOR R. J. HARRISON-CHURCH

Professor Ronald Harrison-Church, geographer, died on November 30 aged 83. He was born on July 26, 1915.

THE geographer Ronald Harrison-Church was an international authority on West Africa who wrote on the transition from colonialism to independence and, in an environmental context, on problems of economic and social development. His most important book, *West Africa: A Study of the Environment and Man's Use of It* (1957) was a wide-ranging and sympathetic treat-

ment of the whole of West Africa.

The first to cover the whole field, the book passed through eight editions. It exemplified Harrison-Church's great strength: the use of fieldwork to examine the problems of former French, Spanish and Portuguese as well as the ex-British colonies.

Ronald James Church went to Westminster City School, but interest in African studies began during his undergraduate years at the London School of Economics, where he was the only student in his year to choose Africa as an optional

subject. Taking a first in 1935, he also won a postgraduate award from the French Government, the first given to a geographer, and his year in Paris gave him a lasting insight into the work of French geographers. Later, in an effective book on *Modern Colonization* (1951), he was sharply to contrast the emphasis given in France and Belgium to the geographical study of colonial territories with its relative neglect in Britain.

The early work for his doctorate (which was awarded in 1943) focused on railway projects in West Africa, and this was the theme of a number of his papers, along with the interpretation of the cultural landscapes. His studies of the "dry zone" of West Africa and of irrigation schemes in the French Sudan led to his appointment as consultant to the Economic Commission for Africa for a survey of the advantages and disadvantages of large-scale irrigation in tropical Africa. His report, delivered in 1963, argued for the training and involvement of local people and for social changes: every effort should be made, he argued, to speed the social evolution of women.

In 1944 he married Dorothy Harrison, adopting the combined name Harrison-Church, and he was appointed in 1952 to the post of Reader in Geography at the LSE. He became a Reader in 1958 and a Professor in 1964. He took his turn successfully as convener of the geography department and kept a strong interest in the welfare of overseas students. Many graduate students came to him, of whom a large number became teachers in universities in Africa and North America.

With his interest in the effects of the colonial phase on the indigenous peoples and the relationships between newly independent countries, he was among the few who kept alive the subject of political geography. But he also enjoyed the adventure of being geographical director of the trans-African hovercraft expedition in 1969.

He was in demand internationally as a visiting professor, and he lectured widely in French at several universities, among them Wisconsin 1956, Indiana 1965, Tel Aviv and Haifa 1972. He also lectured at the College of Europe in Bruges, where he was a member of the British Committee, 1951-72. Visits to lecture in universities in Africa gave him additional opportunities to lec-

ture, advise and renew his field studies.

He retired early on health grounds in 1977, but after a successful operation he was able to resume work and again enjoy travel. He and his wife Dorothy, a skilled botanist whom he married in 1944, began a new career as lecturers on cruise ships.

Living in Lechlworth and Westminster City, Harrison-Church had a lively interest in the historical geography of the Garden City and New Towns movement and delighted in demonstrating to students and visitors what could be learnt about them through field study. He and his wife had a particular longstanding interest in St Christopher's School, Lechlworth, where they had met and taught during the war.

Among his many other activities, he served on the French Embassy's scholarships committee and assisted in the work of the Fulbright Awards scheme. He was a vice-president of the Alliance Internationale des Anciens de la Cité Universitaire de Paris and of the council of the Royal African Society. He was a member of the Africa Field Committee of Oxfam for six years and, as a member of the Society of Friends, he was firm in his ideals.

The Royal Geographical Society gave him its Back Award in 1982 and he became an honorary member of the Société de Géographie de Liège in 1977.

He is survived by his wife, and by their son and daughter.

Advertisement for 'THE TIMES ATLAS OF THE WORLD'. It features a globe and text describing the atlas's features, including 178 pages of detailed maps, 64 pages of maps, graphs and charts on states and territories, and 46 major cities. It offers a £10 discount on the cover price. Includes a coupon for ordering the atlas.

CHRISTMAS TREATS

A manifestation of the imperial spirit to which the most capacious politician could hardly take exception was afforded yesterday, when 2,000 of the poorest children in the Empire's capital enjoyed at a Christmas dinner the hospitality of their fellow-Britons beyond the seas. For 11 consecutive years now it has been the kindly practice of The Children's Seaman Society of South Australia - a society founded by the Adelaide Register - to remit to the Ragged School Union a sum sufficient to provide a Christmas dinner for 1,000 of the waifs and strays of London, and latterly the beneficent example set by South Australia has been emulated by other colonies. New Zealand, South Africa, and British Columbia have each in past years given a New Year's treat to London children, and the last-mentioned colony is again with South Australia to the fore this year.

The Columbian dinner was given yesterday afternoon in the Public-hall, Canning-town - the centre of some of the severest destitution in London. In carrying out the arrangements, Mr. John Kirk, the secretary of the Ragged School Union, obtained the co-operation of the West Ham Poor Children's Dinner and

ON THIS DAY

December 29, 1905

In 1905, when thousands of London's poorest children sat down to roast beef and plum pudding, provided by the generosity of Britons overseas, it was noted that many of the boys were "barefooted" and some were without coats.

Clothing Fund, and of the teachers in the elementary schools of the district. The head teacher of each school was allowed to select 10 per cent of the most necessitous children in his school - a proportion which in the neighbourhood of the docks is amply sufficient to make up the aggregate of 1,000. The fortunate boys and girls selected were provided with an excellent meal, consisting of hot roast beef, potatoes, plum pudding, mince pie, and an orange and lemonade, and they were waited on by a troop of willing workers mainly drawn from the teaching staffs of the local

schools, under the direction of Headmaster W. H. Ridgley. That the guests had been selected with proper discrimination was painfully evident from the destitute and neglected appearance which most of them presented. Apart from their white and pinched faces, many of the boys were barefooted and some were without coats, while the condition of the little girls, if less deplorable to the eye, was only masked by the skill of feminine contrivance. The most cheering feature of the spectacle was not merely the good spirits of the company, but the discipline which they observed, and which had evidently been acquired at school. They obeyed the directions of Mr. Ridgley implicitly, and the little fellows, whose own mouths were watering for the taste of beef and pudding, patiently waited their turn to be served while passing plate after plate on to their companions higher up the table. Mr. Ridgley aroused great enthusiasm by suggesting that their message to British Columbia should be "Thanks, from the bottom of our little hearts," and by calling for three cheers of such heartiness that the echo might be heard on the other side of the world and save the cost of a telegram. The suggestion appealed to the boys and girls of Canning Town, who, now in the highest of spirits, went as far towards realising it as the volume of a thousand voices could do.

The Editor's Corner

For Mr and Mrs... The Editor's Corner

Of Jes... The Editor's Corner

Yo... The Editor's Corner

DI... The Editor's Corner

NEWS

US jets blast Iraqi missile base

American fighter aircraft responded rapidly and in force yesterday when they came under missile attack in the no-fly zone of northern Iraq...

Missing yachtsman cancelled holiday

The British Olympic yachtsman feared drowned after being swept overboard during the Sydney to Hobart boat race had cancelled plans to spend Christmas with his family...

Legal aid 'milked'

Seventy-six firms of solicitors are under investigation amid suspicion that the legal aid fund is being milked by unscrupulous lawyers offering immigration and asylum advice...

Thai bride jilts lover

A petrol station manager who spent thousands of pounds bringing his Thai bride to England is now seeking to have her deported after she deserted him...

Party plan shortfall

With just 12 months to go until the millennium, Britain's biggest celebration projects are still more than £100 million short of funding targets...

Britons kidnapped

Twelve Britons were among 16 Western tourists kidnapped by tribesmen in southern Yemen yesterday. The tourists were seized when their convoy was stopped at a roadblock...

Campaign fund cap

Jack Straw has backed a ceiling on campaign spending in referendums in a move that will worry opponents of the single currency. In The Times today the Home Secretary indicates that the government's bill on party funding will contain a limit on election and referendum campaigns...

Begin son in PM bid

The only son of the late Menachem Begin announced that he would try to follow in his father's footsteps by standing for Prime Minister of Israel. Benny Begin joins an already crowded field of candidates attempting to oust Benjamin Netanyahu...

Tree cemetery grows

An enterprising farmer is creating a woodland graveyard on what was once featureless arable land. On the southern side of the Stour estuary in Essex is a nature reserve dotted with trees, each of which marks a grave...

Job fears on euro

The arrival of the euro poses a twin danger for Europe's poorer regions. It arouses expectations of regional investment that it may not be able to fulfil; indeed it may add to unemployment and underinvestment...

Row over rabies law

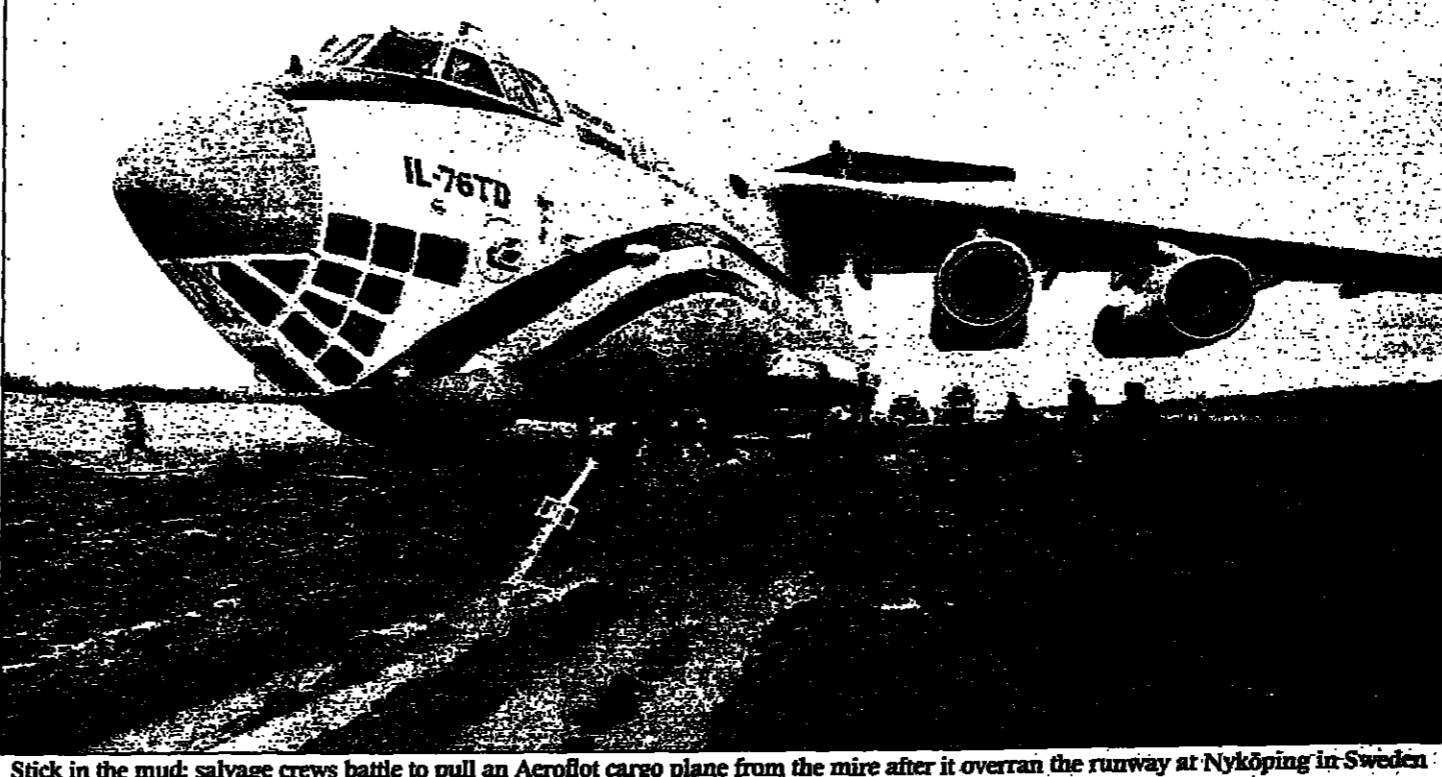
The Government has been summoned to the High Court to answer charges that it violated European Union law by refusing to allow a Swedish cat to travel with its owner to Britain...

Canada's royal row

Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister, has outraged monarchists by suggesting that Canada should sever its constitutional ties with the Crown. He said the issue could come to the fore at the millennium...

Prince no symbol of peace in 1999

The pop star Prince has embarked on a new row with his former record label Warner Brothers over the rights to his song 1999, widely tipped to be the biggest hit of next year. He forfeited his rights to the single as part of the agreement that freed him from his contract in 1996, but is determined to stop the company profiting from the record's popularity...



Stick in the mud: salvage crews battle to pull an Aeroflot cargo plane from the mire after it overran the runway at Nyköping in Sweden.

BUSINESS

OFT warning: The Office of Fair Trading is advising consumers not to sign contracts that require them to hand over all or most of the cost of any home improvement work in advance. It has forced Limesight, the fitted kitchens and bathrooms retailer, to remove a term requiring full payment up front from its standard contracts...

Football: Aston Villa returned to the top of the FA Carling Premiership with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Sheffield Wednesday yesterday... Page 21

Dark genius: Richard Cork travels to the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Lille to admire an absolutely stunning collection of works by the Spanish master Goya... Page 14

Looking back: This was the year of the great 'if only', when the folly of everyone from the American President to footballers came into sharp focus. Gazza regretted eating at a kebab house and General Pinochet is regretting a visit to Britain... Page 13

Home loans: Mortgage rates will fall to 6 per cent in 1999 and house prices will barely rise above the rate of inflation, according to Barclays Bank, which is predicting a steady year ahead... Page 40

Racing: Dorans Pride took full advantage of an unexpected lapse by Florida Pearl, the favourite, to win the Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown... Page 31

Broadway melodies: Legendary impresario Hal Prince unveils his new mega-musical, Parade, in New York, but Benedict Nightingale is disappointed... Page 15

Pulling strings: London children can enjoy two delightful puppet shows this Christmas holiday - The Secret Garden in Islington, and The Elves and the Shoemakers in Wimbledon... Page 15



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE: Where will IT lead us next? A special edition on the future of technology... COMEDY: Sanjeev Bhaskar of Goodness, Gracious Me is interviewed before he takes his stand-up comedy show on the road.

Preview: History of the newspaper, beginning with a look at wars and disasters. Shooting the Century (BBC2, 2.50pm) Review: Peter Barmard on near-repeats and compilations including the likes of Police, Camera, Action... Pages 38, 39

Straw poll: At the end of a week dominated by the internecine warfare of his Cabinet colleagues, the Home Secretary has shown himself to be one of the few ministers still focused on the pursuit of solid policy... Page 77

Rocket man: Few men so exemplify the evil of the 1940s, the moral amnesia and the subsequent redirection of knowledge acquired for battle as Werner von Braun... Page 17

Dominions of death: The potential of graveyards has been too often neglected. Scattered through every town and village of Britain, these dead spaces could be made fruitful... Page 17

LIBBY PURVES: The corruption of crones is potentially the strongest corruption of all (read almost any set of literary review pages)... Page 16

MICHAEL GOVE: The Government, in an attempt to reassert its seriousness, will take a more puritan turn. Expect to see Jack Straw assume a more prominent role... Page 16

SIR ROBIN: KNOX-JOHNSTON: If occasionally tragedies occur, it is because sport is all about pushing oneself to the limits, and we can never discover where those margins lie unless we strive in the toughest competition... Page 16

Captain William Mecke, MBE, DSC and Bar, wartime submarine captain; Alistair Cumming, former director of engineering, British Airways; Professor R.J. Harrison-Church, geographer; Sir Peter Meekes, former chairman of the Electricity Council... Page 19

Mandelson resignation; salaried CPS lawyers; Iraq diplomacy; South Bank acoustics; Branson's glasses... Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,986

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting positions for words.

- ACROSS: 1 Monarch rejected hatred - that's a relief (7). 5 Form of protection favoured by soldier (7). 9 French vineyard and French wine bottle (5). 10 One beer ain't enough, perhaps, for him (9). 11 Piece of rock - dashed for cover (6). 12 Greedy with hunger, I use rent improperly (8). 14 One French man and woman (5). 15 Scared of outsiders, one withdraws from other races (9). 18 One may be pushed to admit a late entry (5-4). 20 Addition to book for teachers' training (5). 22 Confusing viewers with brilliance (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,985. SHIPMATE ABSESS, L N A R E O X T, OFF THE FIRST WATER, E S B O L O E, UEGATEE TRIPLET, V R A E N N O, DINOSAUR GARTO, C T I H V, LAYER JACOBAN, A E U A P C, NEMESIS PERUSAL, S O T T A M O, M I N D O N E S P A N D O S, A E R D E T I E, NUTMEG PRODUCE.

Local Road and Weather conditions, Weather by Fax, World City Weather, Motorway, Car reports by fax.

HOURS OF DARKNESS: Sun rises: 8:06 am, Sun sets: 3:59 pm, Moon sets: 3:13 am, Moon rises: 1:38 pm.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING: Recycled paper made up 48.20% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997.

Weather forecast for various regions: Today: windy, wet in Northern Ireland with threat of gales. Western Scotland, Wales and western England will start mainly dry, but soon become very windy with rain. Eastern Scotland and eastern England will remain generally dry but growing risk of rain.

24 hrs to 6 pm: Sun, Rain, Cloud, Drizzle, Dust storm, Fog, Ice, Hail, Fog, Gales, H-hail.

Temperatures of major local time on Sunday X = not available. Table with columns for location, temperature, and other weather data.

Changes to chart below from noon: lows A and B will merge, drifting northwest and absorbing low C while filling; highs D and E will combine and build, extending north and northeast.

Weather map showing fronts and temperatures across the UK.

Today's weather summary: AM, HT, PM, YF, TODAY, AN, HT, PM, YF. Table with columns for location, temperature, and other weather data.

**INSIDE SECTION****2 TODAY****SPORT**

England let the advantage slip in Melbourne  
**PAGES 21-31**

**LAW**

Players of the legal year, with David Pannick, QC  
**PAGE 33**

**BUSINESS**

The Television Corporation faces its cricket test  
**PAGES 35-40**

**TELEVISION AND RADIO**

Pages 38, 39

TUESDAY DECEMBER 29 1998

Premiership contenders respond to pressure with late winner against Wednesday



Leading by example: Southgate, the Villa captain, celebrates the goal that put them ahead against Sheffield Wednesday

## Villa inspired by Gregory's goals

THEY are beginning to look like tin men leaving a trail of clinking metal limbs as they push themselves to the limits of their capabilities. Yesterday, Aston Villa seemed to be on the brink of another significant disintegration of body parts against ten-man Sheffield Wednesday, but the beating heart at the centre of the machine pushed them grimly onwards.

If much of the fluidity and lack of inhibition that characterised their march to the top of the FA Carling Premiership is slowly being eroded as the pressures of their status grows, their determination and grit have not diminished one iota. Wednesday seemed to have ground them down at Villa Park, but John Gregory's team refused to abandon its search for a winner.

Still smarting from their controversial Boxing Day defeat to Blackburn Rovers, when Michael Oakes, their goalkeeper, was dismissed when he was wrongly adjudged to have handled outside his area, it was imperative that Villa secured three points against their struggling visitors to keep the growing challenges of Chelsea, Manchester United and Arsenal at bay.

For much of the game, after Benito Carbone had equalised Gareth Southgate's seventh-minute volley with a bicycle kick of sorts a minute later, it seemed that Villa would return to the top of the table only by virtue of a rather hollow draw. Then, when their frustration appeared irreversible, Ugo Ehiogu rose unmarked to meet a corner from Alan Wright five minutes from the end and headed the ball into an empty net. The victory puts them three points ahead of the chasing pack—at least until tonight, when Chelsea play United at Stamford Bridge.

"It was hard today," Gregory said, "but then I cannot ever remember an easy one. We had to work for it, but we have had to work for everything we have got. We are that kind of team. I thought that maybe it was not going to happen for us today, but the players have got to take a lot of credit for the way they just kept going. They just kept grinding on and on. I am always proud of

meant was that I know that they will never give up." At first, it had seemed as though it might be the simplest of victories. Srnicek palmed a curling free kick from Wright uncertainly over the crossbar after five minutes and, a minute later, the Wednesday goalkeeper failed to clear Hendrie's free kick and Southgate reacted first to stab the loose ball into an unguarded net.

Even after Carbone's equaliser, which came courtesy of some untypical hesitancy in the Villa defence, it seemed that Villa had been handed the advantage again midway through the first half, when Dejan Stefanovic, who had already been booked, brought down Julian Joachim as he was bearing down on goal and was shown the red card.

Danny Wilson, the Wednesday manager, railed against Graham Barber's decision, calling it "diabolical", but Wednesday did not buckle. Alexandersson nearly put the visitors into the lead when he volleyed Rudi's cross just wide and Carbone, who was outstanding, floated a clever chip onto the roof of the net just before half-time.

When it was put to Gregory that the pressure on him and his team was growing, he had his response ready. "You want to see what it is like at my old club, Wycombe Wanderers, down near the bottom of the second division," he said. "That is pressure. Me, I have got the best job in the world. If he keeps thinking like that, there is hope for Villa yet."

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Oakes — U. Ehiogu, G. Southgate, G. Barry — S. Watson, J. Taylor (sub), M. Draper, S. Amin, L. Hendrie, R. Scarnecchia (sub), S. Collymore, S. A. Wright — J. Joachim, D. Debiak.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (3-5-2): P. Srnicek — E. Thorne, D. Walker, G. Snelson — A. Hendrie, P. Rudi (sub), R. Hamptons, B. P. Arnton, W. Jank, N. Alexandersson (sub), L. Ebiogu, B. — A. Booth, B. Carbone. Referee: G. Barber.

Arsenal stride on, page 22  
Liverpool feast, page 23  
Musca's jewel, page 24  
Fantasy football, pages 28-29

ASTON VILLA	2	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	1
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By Oliver Holt  
Football Correspondent

TOP SIX						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
A Villa	20	11	6	3	31	20 38
Chelsea	19	9	1	1	31	17 35
Arsenal	22	8	3	3	22	11 35
Man Utd	19	7	3	3	28	24 34
Leeds	18	8	3	3	27	17 32
West Ham	20	4	5	9	24	23 22

## Wanchope leads the way as four see red

PAULO WANCHOPE, sent off a minute before half-time, jeoparded Derby County's chances against Middlesbrough at Pride Park yesterday, but a battling performance by Jim Smith's team saw them restrict Middlesbrough to one goal in the second half, then score a late winner (Mel Webb writes).

Wanchope's red card, one of four in the FA Carling Premiership, came after Andy Townsend had gone in hard on the Costa Rica striker. After the players had appeared to kick out at each other on the ground, Wanchope swung an arm at the Middlesbrough captain.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, expressed his fears for Patrick Vieira's future after the France midfielder had

paid for his latest moment of madness when he elbowed Neil Redfern, the Charlton Athletic midfielder, six minutes after half-time.

Other FA Carling Premiership players to be sent early to the dressing-rooms, both after two bookable offences, were Dinar Hamarou, of Newcastle United, and Dejan Stefanovic, of Sheffield Wednesday.

## Bates presses to seize reins of power

Oliver Holt hears from the controversial Chelsea chairman why he wants to be given the chance to modernise the FA

It was as I walked up the aisle of a crowded plane sitting on the tarmac at Stockholm Airport last May that I realised at last that behind all the bluster, Ken Bates is for real. There, halfway back and looking thoroughly uncomfortable and sweaty amid the rest of the common herd celebrating Chelsea's victory in the European Cup Winners' Cup final, sat David Mellor, Chelsea chairman, to defeat a tribe of sycophants. A lesser man than Bates, a less thick-skinned man, certainly, would have yielded to the onslaught and reciprocated with some light mutual admiration and all the privileges of a Chelsea dignitary. Yet there Mellor sat, a victim of Bates's unflinching egalitarianism.

The faults of the man who has been the tireless driving force behind Chelsea's rise to their present prominence are there for all to see. That he is arrogant is undeniable, that he is blunt and tactless, that he is a source of pride to him, but, as he launched his campaign to take over as Football Association chairman yesterday and swirl out the Augean Stables that Lancaster Gate has become, it was those very qualities that made him such an attractive proposition.

Speaking at Stamford Bridge a week before the FA Council is likely to rubber-stamp the dismissal of Keith Wiseman, its sorry chairman, Bates made it plain that he did not want the job on a permanent basis. His plan is to assume control for a maximum of two years to effect the transition from an antiquated organisation to a modern one.

No doubt he would upset a great many people along the way, but that is exactly what the new man must do if he is to drag the organisation kicking and screaming into the new millennium.

an opportunity," Bates said yesterday, "and this is an opportunity for the FA. If they do not seize their chance now, they never will. The great danger is that we will merely change the people at the top, inherit the current situation and carry on as if nothing had happened."

Despite the preachings of his acolytes, Davies has the poorest of credentials as a moderniser, presiding, as he does, over one of the most backward-looking and cautious public relations systems in international football. If he cannot modernise that, how can he hope to modernise the monster that the FA has become?

### THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN KEN

Never afraid to express an opinion, Ken Bates has enlightened many a debate with his observations on the world of football. Here are some of his more memorable offerings:

"I suppose I am arrogant, but then I believe I have something to be arrogant about."  
"Do we really want to extend the contract of an English manager who believes that Elton Drawery, like Jesus, is just an ordinary person in the street, both having special gifts?"  
"Expressing concern over Glenn Hoddle in a letter to Keith Wiseman, chairman of the FA."  
"He never had a chance once he revealed himself in his true colours. I don't believe evil should triumph and he was an evil man."  
"Still attacking Matthew Harding in 1997, a year after his Chelsea teammate had died in a helicopter crash."  
"There will be a single strand of electric wire, the type that controls... people may howl about it being dangerous but it has been used in farming for a long time? — on his decision to erect an electric fence at Stamford Bridge in 1985. The current was never switched on because the GLC refused permission."

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FA Carling Premiership: Victory secured despite loss of Bergkamp and Winterburn to injury

Dismissal of Vieira fails to halt Arsenal

The Edi Con ano Lon Mo... Fo mi Mr. and The bew R.C. and Glat dau Gray Mai... Bi Jun deer Rict 86; Sarr Mr chai ny, acto acto Wal Rob Fost mis; and Wal form bers by, tura OMI 32; form Cou Brit Mau min Sha Har 60; Sir Con 88, I... Of Jett. ELE To S Ben Roak brid; Colk pher Colk Car Coat form Sch men Sch form sec. Edw Esse of / Sch Dris Sch form m; Grew John Sch meri Dor Well born of Bi Mar Sch To a Ross Taf I To E Sim Sch Ann tngl Not met. set. Egn Phyl y Joan mou... B PI... You of Ju se 12 Y TO CO... BI... AC... G O A... ASI at B. B. Z... WE I C T I B... DI... BA) B. oc to fa w oc oc... CA d. C. C.



ARSENAL edged into third place in the FA Carling Premiership yesterday, creeping deceptively closer to the retention of their title. Yet again, though, their disciplinary statistics were damning, casting a cloud over an otherwise grindingly efficient victory against Charlton Athletic at The Valley.

The crumshet makes dismal reading. Patrick Vieira's dismissal for appearing to elbow Neil Redfern was the eighteenth red card that Arsenal have collected since Arsene Wenger was installed as manager at Highbury 2½ years ago. It was Arsenal's sixth dismissal this season and the fourth for Vieira since he joined the club from AC Milan.

Vieira reacted, in the 51st minute, after Redfern had nudged at his shirt. Uriah Rennie, the referee, attempted to play the advantage rule, but Vieira jabbed his elbow in Redfern's direction and the Charlton midfielder fell to the ground clutching his face. Rennie's Vieira walked and Redfern was booked.

As usual, Wenger was not able to see the incident clearly. "I did not have a good view of it," he said, "but I was very surprised he was sent off. Patrick was destroyed afterwards. He could hardly speak. He can't be proud of it, but I will have to see the video first. I can't criticise him until then."

Only two weeks ago, Vieira was fined £20,000 by the Football Association after being found guilty of making obscene gestures to Sheffield Wednesday supporters at Hillsborough in September. "I'm concerned about our disciplinary record, of course I am," Wenger said, "but you saw the game today. I didn't think we were unfair."

For once, it was possible to sympathise with Wenger. Apart from Vieira's indiscretion, Arsenal were more victims than perpetrators. Charlton's desire to survive in the top flight is undeniable, but the desperation of their lowly position is getting to them. Riled by what they perceived, erroneously, as erratic decision-making by Rennie, the Charlton players continually harangued him throughout the opening 45 minutes.

In contrast, Arsenal maintained a respectful discipline, until Vieira's departure, with Petit relentlessly picking up the pieces in midfield and re-



Rennie raises the red card but the departure of Vieira could not shake Arsenal out of their stride at The Valley yesterday.

Middlesbrough end the festive season with second hangover

HAVING spent the first part of the season defying expectations, Middlesbrough spent the Christmas holidays succumbing to them. Against Derby County, Bryan Robson's team looked unlikely to threaten the FA Carling Premiership hierarchy, let alone actually be part of it.

Quite possibly the visitors felt ambushed. First, on Boxing Day, Liverpool found form and then, yesterday, Derby defied recent poor performances to put on a scintillating display. However, Robson was not in the mood for excuses. "We didn't deserve anything at all."

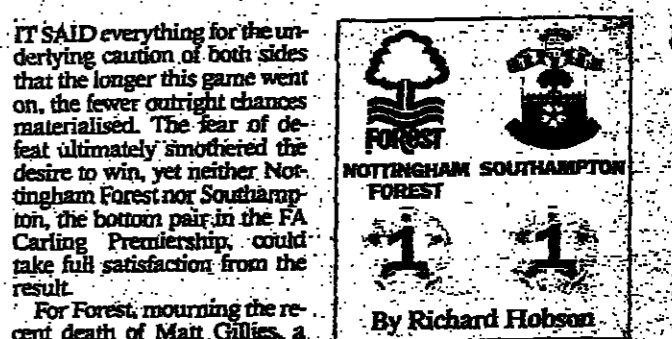
At the heart of Middlesbrough's misery was Paulo Wanchope, stirring himself in dismay — and it was galling because the entertaining value had been exceptionally high. Derby, hot on the heels of their culpability in what is being touted as the most boring Premiership match of the season so far — their 0-0 draw at Everton — were a joy to behold and provided an object lesson in how their best player off the field. Derby were not about to let their first home win since September

include them and they replaced invention with labour. Even after the visitors equalised, Mikkel Beck heading in Gordon's cross, Jim Smith's side battled on and Jonathan Hunt, two minutes after entering the fray as a substitute, scored the winner from Powell's knock down. It was set up by Sturridge, who, after all the speculation linking him with a transfer, played as if he had not a care in the world.

"I thought it was a massive test for him today," Steve McClaren, the Derby coach, said. "The crowd had read about him and he won them over." McClaren, speaking in place of Jim Smith, who has a flu bug, said that none of the bids that have been received for Sturridge had been anywhere near his true value.

It may only be transitory, but for now, at least, his value — and that of the entire Derby team — has rocketed. Derby County (5-5-2) M. Poom — S. Elliott, H. Cartmore, S. Pinner — J. Leeson, L. Brown (left), M. Bennett, S. Kozicki, R. Kozicki, J. Carter, D. Powell — D. Sturridge (left), K. Harper, S. P. Wanchope, M. Beck, A. P. Gascoigne (left), G. Farnham, C. Cooper, S. Wilson, G. Foster, R. Stockdale (left), N. Mackintosh, T. P. Stamp (left), M. Black, A. P. Gascoigne (left), G. Farnham, A. Townsend, D. Gordon — H. Hoard, B. Danks. Referee: R. Harris

Fear of defeat cancels out bottom pair



IT SAID everything for the underlying caution of both sides that the longer this game went on, the fewer outright chances materialised. The fear of defeat ultimately smothered the desire to win, yet neither Nottingham Forest nor Southampton, the bottom pair in the FA Carling Premiership, could take full satisfaction from the result.

For Forest, mourning the recent death of Matt Gillies, a former manager, the draw meant a new record of 17 FA Premier League games without a win. Several hundred supporters stayed behind in a spontaneous demonstration against the directors, although they must realise that resignations from any quarter are unlikely in the immediate future.

"It will not make any difference because the board are not suddenly going to have money to spend and I think the crowd know that," Dave Bassett, the manager, also the subject of criticism, said. "When you are down the bottom, people get frustrated. Everybody has a cause in life and they are committed to the club, but at the same time I cannot question the commitment of the players. It is not a lost cause."

Four months have passed since the last Forest success in the corresponding fixture against Southampton at The Dell. Confidence has been draining away ever since and the full extent of the problems camouflaged by early results has become apparent. Southampton, at least, has a distinctive shape and are displaying evidence of improvement. Ostentatious, the leading scorer, would feature in better terms, would feature in better terms, would feature in better terms.

The absence of Le Tissier to a call strain effectively allowed Kachloul a free role at the City Ground. With Dodd holding the space in front of the back four and Palmer and Oakley staying infield, Southampton

enjoyed the manpower to impose themselves physically in the early stages and, for the first half-hour at least, the home side struggled to win the ball, let alone retain it. In the tenth minute, Ostentatious turned past Hjelde only to shoot straight at Beasant. Six minutes later, Oakley had a snaphor saved. Indeed, until the closing minutes of the first half, the best prospects of a Forest goal stemmed from errors by Monkou at the heart of the opposing defence. One attempted clearance was screened high towards Paul Jones, the goalkeeper, while a header cleared the crossbar by inches.

Then, with 39 minutes gone, Stone displayed good control in a crowded penalty area, to play in Freedman, who shot against the post. At the other end, Beasant made a double save to deny Beattie and Kachloul before Forest pressed forward again to see efforts by Johnson and Freedman turned off the line. The half ended frantically as Jones matched Beasant by turning away successive attempts from Shipperley and Freedman.

It was something of a surprise, then, that Forest should go behind three minutes into the second half when Kachloul met a cross by Oakley with a diving header. The equaliser was not long in coming, though, Jones was adjudged to have pulled down Freedman in the 55th minute and Chettle converted the penalty. "I thought the decision was a bit harsh," David Jones, the Southampton manager, said.

Table with 10 columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists results for various football leagues including FA Carling Premiership, Nationwide League, and Football Conference.

Rivals let Fulham off hook

FULHAM, the Nationwide League second division leaders, could manage only a 1-1 draw at Northampton Town, but their disappointment was tempered by the failure of their nearest rivals, Walsall and Stoke City.

Geoff Horsfield scored his thirteenth goal of the season, his fifth in a Fulham shirt after his recent move from Halifax, but Kevin Keegan's side were forced to settle for a point when Chris Froststone equalised in the 68th minute. Walsall lost 2-0 away to Wigan Athletic, for whom Stuart Barlow scored both goals, while Stoke City lost 2-1 at Manchester City. Preston North End moved into fourth place, Lee Catterfield scoring twice in the 3-2 defeat of Wrexham. Lincoln City are still four points adrift at the foot of the table, despite holding Burnley to a 1-1 draw at Turf Moor, and Macclesfield Town are now one place off the bottom after a Neil Horwath own goal gifted Blackpool a 1-0 win. Chesterfield are still without a victory on the road after 11 attempts, this time losing 1-0 away to Wycombe Wanderers, where they also had Jamie Hewitt sent off for a second bookable offence. After five defeats and five draws, Bristol Rovers finally won their first away league game of the season — and they did so in amazing style by beating Colchester United 3-0, despite having Jamie Shore sent off for a foul. Jamie Carrington, Jason Roberts and Qui Ipou scored the goals. York City continued their recent revival by winning 2-0 away to Oldham Athletic, where Richard Crosswell scored his fifteenth goal of the season. In other games, Bourne mouth defeated Luton Town and Reading beat North County, both by 1-0.

FA Carling Premiership: Ten-man Newcastle squander 2-0 lead in Anfield reprise

Liverpool feast on Hamann pickle



NEWCASTLE United once more filled the role of reluctant entertainers yesterday. How wretched it must be to provide such exhilaration for everyone other than their own supporters.



Given, the Newcastle goalkeeper, makes a brave save at the feet of Owen yesterday. The Liverpool striker and his colleague, Riedle, right, both scored twice.

So crowded was the game that controversies had to squeeze up to leave space for the thrills. The dismissal of Dietmar Hamann, after 30 minutes, did not prevent Newcastle from extending their lead to 2-0 and, if the numerical advantage was ultimately significant for Liverpool, there were greater factors in the revival.

placed one substitute, Stephen Gerrard, with another, David Thompson, at the interval. Playing just behind the attack, the newcomer helped to bring unbearable pressure on the visitors' central defence.

In the first minute, Shearer found Ferguson and James made a splendid save. With Ince suspended and Fowler injured, Liverpool looked bedraggled when McManaman, their captain, had to be replaced.

fragility of good health. McManaman will be missing for at least a fortnight. A wobbling Liverpool were knocked over by an opening goal in the 29th minute. The defence could not clear Glass's free kick and Solano thrashed the loose ball home from the edge of the penalty area.

personality when Hamann, after a routine foul, was shown his second yellow card for an unremarkable offence on Patrick Berger. The anger of Rudd Gullit with Steve Lodge, the referee, gushed from that incident.

West Ham roused themselves, Berkovic just failing to glance in Hartson's cross-shot, and they made sure of the three points after 67 minutes, when Wright sent in a low cross and Hartson side-footed in the victory.

Hegarty unlikely to land job

ABERDEEN seem certain to resist the opportunity to reward Paul Hegarty with the manager's job on a permanent basis, even if the caretaker steers the Scottish Premier League's biggest under-achievers to their best sequence of results in six years.

knowledge that this is the same group failed under Miller. Eoin Jess, whose ten goals have been among the highlights in Aberdeen's otherwise dark season, put the players' case: "If winning the job is all about results, Paul's record speaks for itself. All the players want him to get the job."

Dick Campbell, the assistant manager, said: "Bert Paton [the manager] and I have made a success of our job here in the past and it does not feel nice right now, but we will not bid."

Amni Niemi, the Finland goalkeeper, who has been deposed by Stefan Klos, the new signing from Borussia Dortmund, will meet Advocate later this week to discuss his future.

West Ham United 2 Coventry City 0. The day when John Hartson and Ian Wright rediscovered the sharpness in front of goal that had deserted them was definitely the wrong day for Coventry City to visit Upton Park.

Coventry stayed out of the bottom three, thanks to a Marc Overmars winner away to Charlton Athletic and looked likely to rescue a point only immediately after the restart, when the home defence left Whelan and Alois to decide who should have the honour of scoring.

Ferguson faces forward shuffle

IT IS the sort of injury list that would send other clubs tottering into crisis, but no more is required of Alex Ferguson than that he shuffles his pack a little as Manchester United approach a game against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge tonight that might be regarded in the fullness of time as crucial in the contest for the FA Carling Premiership title.

countdown to this match. Ferguson is unashamedly looking forward to the game and says that his players are, too. "We have a very good record at Chelsea," he said. "It's one of our favourite grounds, just as Old Trafford is for them. It will be a smashing match and I think it has some significance in the title race, in that whoever wins will be doing handstands."

Taking the rough with the smooth

Matt Dickinson on a cool customer who equates the Premiership with a quiet life



Desailly appreciates the mixture of serious football and bonhomie at Chelsea

It is one thing to call yourself the gunner; another matter entirely to behave like one. Paul Ince discovered the difference when he ran headlong into the brick wall that is Marcel Desailly one afternoon in Milan.

Desailly has been chuckling at English belligerence since moving to the FA Carling Premiership, where he has discovered that five years with AC Milan is no preparation for being clustered by Carl Leaburn and the other behemoth centre forwards on a twice-weekly basis.

That Desailly's authority is now Chelsea's is evident in the 18-match unbeaten run that they will take into this evening's epic encounter and they will expect to improve on the 1-1 draw that they achieved at Old Trafford, when the Frenchman was missing because of a knee injury.

After Chelsea, Desailly will return to France, where he began his career at Nantes, to where his family moved from Ghana when he was a toddler. It was there that his half-brother, Adonkor, who had been tipped to play for France, was killed in a car crash.

Armstrong exposes defects in Everton defence



THE first hat-trick witnessed at White Hart Lane since the departure 19 months ago of Jürgen Klinsmann gave Tottenham Hotspur a mighty-looking victory over Everton. That Chris Armstrong should have doubled his goal tally reflects the inadequacy that Everton showed in dealing with the pace, power and commitment of striker and Les Ferdinand, his partner in attack.

Yet so strange was this affair, so fluctuating the ebb and flow, that just before and just after half-time Everton appeared to be so much in control and so wasteful of chances of their own that any smug assumption among the 36,053 crowd that the halcyon days are returning would have vanished into thin air.

However, with Steffen Freund, the experienced German ball-winner on his way, the signs of revival under George Graham's pragmatic and stern coaching are apparent. In the fifth minute, David Ginola curled such an inviting cross from the corner flag that Armstrong, getting in front of Slaven Bilic, might have scored, let alone glance his header over the crossbar.

cause and turned the ball back for Ginola. Inevitably, his cross teased an Everton defence that had already lost Craig Short with a shin injury; Armstrong came in with aerial power, but his attempt struck Bilic and bounced into the turf. From there, the ball spun mesmerically, fooling everyone bar Ferdinand, who thrust it high into the net.

Shortly afterwards, Tottenham began admiring their craft and forgetting their defence. Don Hutchison spotted Ibrahim Bakayoko lurking at the far post and when Hutchison's slanted through-ball found his colleague, Bakayoko scored with a nod of his head. Within a minute, he was crumpled on the turf, his ankle swollen and his game over. That released Danny Cadamarteri to inject movement and pace that sorely troubled Tottenham and, had Alec Cleland showed sufficient composure, it would have been 2-1 to the visitors before half-time.

Nick Barby, the starlet who left White Hart Lane, was getting fearful verbal abuse from the Tottenham crowd. He should not have let it bother him when, in the 52nd minute, Cadamarteri held the ball bravely with Sam Campbell at his heels, but Barby's low shot was pushed away abjectly by Ian Walker.

Five minutes later, Armstrong began his 19-minute hat-trick. The first, Walter Smith, the Everton manager, claimed, was illegal. He was certain that, after a precise lob by Anderson, Armstrong used an arm to control the ball. Why else, enquired Smith, his goalkeeper, stop completely, allowing Armstrong the freedom of the six-yard box? Smith conceded that his side thereafter lacked composure and certainly lacked the pace to cope with Tottenham's twin centre forwards. In the 75th minute, chasing a hopeful pass from Young, Ferdinand delightfully back-heeled the ball, and Armstrong scored an easy goal. And finally, for him, there was a rasping, rousing finale. Anderson picked out Armstrong, who controlled the ball on his chest and finished explosively from the edge of the penalty area.

Rivals let Fulham off hook

Muscat's jewel 24 Killer instinct 24

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: FIRST DIVISION PROMOTION CANDIDATES FAIL TO MAKE A LASTING IMPRESSION AT MOLINEUX

# Muscat's jewel tarnished by Wolves' display

Wolverhampton W.....1  
Ipswich Town.....0

By JULIAN MUSCAT

A RARE moment of inspiration from Kevin Muscat, the Wolverhampton Wanderers left back, separated two sides whose ambitions bear little relation to the sum of their parts. If Wolves and Ipswich Town have eyes on promotion from the Nationwide League first division, they are eyes far too big for their stomachs.

Muscat's strike aside, this was a drab affair punctuated by half-chances that no player ever looked likely to convert. A spate of injuries may have diluted the potency of both strike forces, but this was a match in which a "golden goal" might not have been

scored before the year's end. Then, out of nowhere, Muscat, prompted by the industrious Neil Emblen after 87 minutes, drifted inside from the left flank, found the space to set his sights and, from fully 25 yards, unleashed a missile seemingly pre-programmed for its target. Richard Wright, the Ipswich goalkeeper, was rendered impotent by the ball's swerving trajectory and the deadlock was broken.

Colin Lee, the Wolves manager, conceded that a draw might have been a fairer result. He could afford to be generous. His team, outplayed by a lively Ipswich midfield throughout the first half, had just about achieved parity through the proings of Fernando Gomez, a half-time substitute for the injured Steve Sedgley. Indeed, Gomez had

come closest to ending the stalemate when, after 76 minutes, he clattered Wright's upright with a shot that the highly-rated goalkeeper could only flap at in passing.

George Burley, the Ipswich manager, insisted that Wright was blameless over the goal, which he described as "one in a million", although Wright, now on the fringe of the England squad, should not have been so readily deceived. After all, he stood directly underneath the ball as it kissed the underside of his crossbar. And he had been forewarned some 28 minutes earlier, when Muscat, an Australia international, cut loose from a similar position only to see his shot scale the crossbar by inches.

Ipswich are plainly short of cover for their walking wounded. The defence, well marshalled by the uncompromising Mowbray, but their strikers lacked penetration. They sorely missed Bobby Petta, a late withdrawal with influenza, while David Johnson, their centre forward, laboured on his return from a carriage operation earlier this month.

Furthermore, they will miss the roaming influence of Samassi Abou, a darting ball-carrier, who now returns to West Ham United after a month on loan. Abou cleverly exploited the space created by Burley's deployment of John Kennedy and Jamie Clapham as adventurous wing backs. If Clapham excelled in his role on the left, particularly in the first half, Kennedy was too often profligate with his crosses, often from promising positions.

Yet Ipswich's threat receded when Clapham's influence waned, so that the Wolves' midfield, overstretched for 45 minutes, eventually found some purchase. Kieron Dyer, the Ipswich midfielder, who left the field after 25 minutes, was never effectively replaced and Ipswich sorely need some new recruits to maintain their promotion drive.

As for Wolves, they, too, were short of key influences — notably another influenza victim in Robbie Keane, and David Connolly, both strikers. They competed hard, if without inspiration, to defy the fact that Lee had only 14 fit players to permute.

All of which is immaterial to the Molineux faithful. Anything less than a play-off place will rest uncomforably with Lee, whose first victory this was since he was confirmed as manager five weeks ago.

**WOLVERHAMPTON** (3-2-2): M. Smith, M. Adams, D. Richards, K. Clarke, K. Muscat, R. Hines (sub: S. Corcoran, S. Brown, C. Robinson, G. Gibson, S. Sedgley (sub: M. Guezes, 45) — G. Whelan (sub: M. Embelen, 87).

**IPSWICH TOWN** (2-3-3): R. Wright, M. Theas, A. Mowbray, M. Vitoria, J. Kennedy (sub: R. Logan, 89), K. Dyer (sub: M. Hopton, 29), M. Holland, J. Clapham — S. Abou, R. Naylor, D. Johnson.

Referee: M. Halsey



Slide rule: Mowbray, the Ipswich Town defender, is stopped in his tracks by a perfect sliding tackle by Embelen

# Furlong unfurls stirring revival

By MEL WEBB

EVENTS at Gigg Lane yesterday left both clubs looking even more firmly at the prospect of playing in a different division next season, with Bury heading downwards and Birmingham City up Birmingham claimed a handsome 4-2 victory against a Bury side who, in spite of suffering terrible problems, are still formidable opponents at home — 24 of their 28 points have come at Gigg Lane. However, that record counted for nothing as Birmingham came from a goal behind to move into third place in the Nationwide League first division.

It started so well for Bury, who opened the scoring after 16 minutes, when D'Jaffo headed a Billy corner past Poole. But Birmingham, who looked dangerous every time that they had the ball, changed the course of the game with two goals in short order.

The first came when a corner by Marsh was met by a header from Furlong. O'Connor put them ahead three minutes later. Birmingham's superior staying power in the second half brought further goals from Furlong, who took his total for the season to 12, and Adebola, with D'Jaffo scoring a second goal for Bury from the penalty spot five minutes from time.

Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, praised his strikers, who have played a considerable role in moving the club towards an automatic promotion spot. "Adebola, Ndlovu and Furlong playing together will always be a prob-



Furlong scored twice

lem for any team and in the second half they ran riot," he said. "It's great to be up there in the league."

Bradford City went into fourth place with their eighth victory in 12 games at Valley Parade. Goals from Parady and Mills — his fifteenth of the season — were enough to beat Tranmere Rovers.

Bolton Wanderers rose to fifth place by adding to Port Vale's relegation problems with a 2-0 away victory. Sellers scored early in the second half and Holdsworth added a penalty 15 minutes from time.

Bristol City remained in the bottom three despite a 3-1 home win over Swindon Town — Torpey scored two, Akinbiyi the other — while the other basement battle, between Fortusmouth and Oxford United, ended in a 2-2 draw.

Hughes's 26th goal of the season ensured that West Bromwich Albion came away with a point from Selhurst Park after Crystal Palace had taken the lead through Morrison.

play and, after 54 minutes, Jack's low cross from the right wing flew straight across the goalmouth, but no Crewe player could finish off.

Three minutes later, Scott, the Sunderland full back, beat his own goalkeeper and hit a post with a header from Wright's cross.

Reid sent on Bridges, his leading goalscorer, for the lacklustre Quinn after 60 minutes, but even this failed to inspire his team. Crewe continued to look more like the division's leaders, their players finding more time on the ball and posing a greater threat to Sorensen's goal.

Yet, just when a Crewe goal was overdue, an old-fashioned long ball from Chris Makin found Bridges, who got between two Crewe defenders to beat Kearton from 12 yards. At last, the home side had got the victory that their manager wanted. It was not pretty, but it did not need to be.

**SUNDERLAND** (2-2-2): T. Sorensen — C. Nelson, A. Hobbie, P. Butler, M. Scott — A. Dea (sub: G. McCann, 45min), K. Bell, L. Clark, M. Gray (sub: D. Williams, 49) — D. Dicko, N. Carr (sub: M. Bridges, 57).

**CREWE ALEXANDRIA** (4-2-2): J. Kearton — M. Signe, L. Unsworth, M. Posen, S. Smith — J. Wright (sub: G. Lightfoot, 88), M. Charnock (sub: K. Lunt, 83), S. Johnson, M. Parnock — C. Lize (sub: K. Street, 83), R. Jack.

Referee: A. Wilby

Sunderland.....2  
Crewe Alexandra.....0

By MARTIN WOODS

IT WAS business as usual at the Stadium of Light yesterday. Three points, two goals and a record crowd saw Sunderland approach the new year odds-on for promotion. How cool and calculating the record book is and how flattering it will be for the home side.

The League Against Cruel Sports might have been put on alert for this fixture after Sunderland's second defeat of the season on Boxing Day left Peter Reid, the manager, wanting a quick kill to restore his side's faith in the legitimacy of their position at the top of the table.

Although there were no saboteurs in evidence among the crowd of 41,433, there is no doubt where their sympathies would lie. Dario Gradi's Crewe side appeared to have all the ingredients to join Sunderland in escaping from the Nationwide League first division relegation race, except in Crewe's case via relegation.

After 45 minutes, however, any concern for the welfare of

# Killer instinct provided by Bridges

son took the game to Sunderland, supplying Jack, the impressive centre forward, with ample ammunition.

The St Vincent international looked to be the most skillful forward on the field, regularly beating Melville and Butler for pace and guile. Crewe's best chance came after 20 minutes, when Rivers was put through against Sorensen. Much to the consternation of the Sunderland defence, the flag stayed down but Sorensen saved well.

Emerging for the second half, Sunderland's anxiety was reflected in the booking of Ball, their captain, after four minutes. Shortly after, to illustrate further their lack of composure, a Quinn volley almost hit the corner flag. The visitors continued to capitalise on Sunderland's tentative

Sheffield United.....2  
Huddersfield Town.....1

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE many thousands started up on the M1 attempting to get to the Meadowhall shopping complex could have fared worse yesterday and ended up at Bramall Lane, where the entertainment was more bargain-basement stuff. Home supporters at least went home happy after a winning goal in the second minute of injury-time secured a welcome first win in six attempts in the Nationwide League first division.

Michael Twiss, 21, on loan from Manchester United, had been on the pitch only seven minutes when his header eluded Nico Vaesen in the Huddersfield goal after a perfect cross by Devin and flick by Morris. His first senior goal brought relief not only to the supporters but also Steve Bruce, the Sheffield manager, who had watched a succession of chances were spurned by Marcelo, whose fluffed penalty attempt after 18 minutes will be a candidate for the worst of the season.

The Brazilian, who has apparently been practising penalties for three months, dithered for an age and then seemed to stub his toe, the ball wearily hobbling a couple of yards wide of Vaesen's right-hand post. Marcelo's stuttering performance underlined the problems that United face in the striking department. With Dean Saunders and Gareth Taylor now departed and with five regular players absent, Bruce fielded 11 players who could claim just ten league goals between them all season.

Huddersfield are a bag of nerves away from home, which is harming their play-off chances. They mustered only two serious strikes on goal and one of these was the 67th-minute penalty converted by Marcus Stewart, his eighth goal of the season.

"United, makeshift in every department, were nothing if not expensive," Marcelo sprayed defenses left and right, but got one on target in the first half, to force an agile tip over by Vaesen.

Kevin Gray succeeded where Marcelo had failed; conceding an own goal in the 49th minute as he tried to steer away a cross by Devin, who often looked dangerous. Twiss's decisive goal at least produced a result which fairly reflected the balance of play.

"We deserved to win with the effort and commitment we showed," Bruce said. "Those are two qualities you look for as a manager. Had we not won today, we would have been hard done by."

**SHEFFIELD UNITED** (2-2-2): A. Kelly — T. Dallas (sub: I. Hamilton, 89min), I. Sandford, R. Nelson — S. Ford, M. Henry, G. Gray, G. Woodhouse (sub: M. Twiss, 84) W. Quinn — P. Devin, Marcelo (sub: J. Morris, 77).

**HUDDERSFIELD TOWN** (4-2-2): N. Vaesen — S. Jenkins, S. Hester, K. Gray, R. Edwards — D. Bennett (sub: J. Lawson, 54), G. Beesh, L. Gordon (sub: D. Phillips, 14), G. Johnson — W. Allison, M. Stewart.

Referee: T. Jones

# Cardiff stymied by Hreidarsson

Brentford.....1  
Cardiff City.....0

By PAT GIBSON

A TOUCH of class from Hermann Hreidarsson, at £750,000 the most expensive player in the Nationwide League third division, enabled Brentford to move within four points of Cardiff City, the leaders, with two games in hand.

The problem for most players in the lower reaches of the league is that they know what they want to do, without quite having the ability to do it. That was not something that bothered Hreidarsson, the Icelandic international, whom Ron Noades, the Brentford chairman-cum-manager, signed from his old club, Crystal Palace.

Hreidarsson, a cultured centre back who likes to venture forward in support of his attack, had time and space when Folan touched the ball to him in the 53rd minute. With the Cardiff defence criss-crossing off, he struck a crisp, low, left-footed shot from 20 yards that flashed into the left-hand corner of the net.

It was a rare moment of precision in a match that had the atmosphere of a local derby. There may be 150 miles between these clubs, but they are at opposite ends of the same road, the M4, and a huge Cardiff contingent took advantage to make up about a third of a crowd that approached 10,000.

There was such a crush before the start that the kick-off

was delayed for 15 minutes and the overkill from the visitors' end had to be accommodated among the home supporters, with predictable consequences.

None of that, however, should detract from the efforts of the two sides on a heavy pitch which cut up badly.

Cardiff began like a team that had won their past five matches to open a six-point gap at the top of the table, but they were dealt a blow in the thirteenth minute when Young, a key figure at the heart of their defence, had to be helped off with a twisted knee.

Eckhardt proved to be an able deputy, but Brentford seized the moment to step up the pressure. They had gone close to scoring through Mahon and Freeman before Hreidarsson put them ahead.

To their credit, Cardiff hit back with their best football of the match, but, with the Brentford defence getting boots and bodies in the way of just about everything, they created only one clear opening. Nugent wasted it by heading wide from Ford's cross.

"I thought it was a great performance from all of our team," Noades said afterwards, "and Hreidarsson was different class." That just about summed it up.

**BRENTFORD** (2-2-2): K. Dearden — R. Carr, J. Bates, H. Wooderson — D. Wood, M. Rowlands, G. Mahon, T. Ford, J. Anderson — D. Freeman (sub: D. Bryan, 67min), L. Owen (sub: L. Foran, 80).

**CARDIFF CITY** (4-2-3): J. Huthwaite — J. McKinstry, G. Mitchell, S. Young (sub: J. Eckhardt, 15), M. Ford — C. Middleton (sub: A. Lapp, 71), R. Carpenter, J. Foster, M. O'Sullivan — K. Nugent, J. Williams.

Referee: P. Richards

# Victory Taylor-made for Royle

Manchester City.....2  
Stoke City.....1

By STEPHEN WOOD

IT DOES not take much for the club that has turned misery into an art form suddenly to believe in its own bluster again and, after their sterling fightback against one of their promotion rivals yesterday, Maine Road was almost delirious.

It was clear that this was an important encounter for Manchester City. The players threw everything at Stoke City before fading and allowing the visitors one clear opportunity to take the lead. They departed at half-time to boos before another manic charge brought more disbelief from the fans — at least it did until they managed a winning goal five minutes from time.

Consecutive victories over the festive period have kept them in touch at the right end

of the Nationwide League second division, but there is no doubting the fine line that City tread between success and failure. Although correct in his assertion that his side deserved victory, Joe Royle, the manager, was also wise in his words regarding in the programme notes.

"There is a certain element who are becoming very vociferous and very negative," he wrote. "Listening to them, I can understand why two chairmen and a succession of managers have been hounded out of this place. All the 'knockers' do is put the manager, the board and the players under more pressure... people have to start facing reality and stop playing 'fantasy football'."

The reality of another huge let-down faced Royle at half-time against Stoke. Inexplicably, a header from Taylor had been ruled out for offside and, in the 31st minute, the home defence allowed Sigurdsson space to direct a header past

Weaver. With the introduction of Gozard, another striker, Royle changed formation to 4-3-3 for the second half. Still, it required a mistake by the Stoke defence to gift an equaliser to Dickov three minutes after the break, but, for once, the players and fans were roused as one.

Dickov had one effort blocked. Horlock headed over from a good position. Taylor



Dickov: gifted an equaliser

fluffed another shot and Gozard tried a Rivaldo-style overhead kick in an attempt to break the stalemate. Just when they looked to have given up, Dickov sent in a hopeful cross from the left and Taylor, a recent signing from Sheffield United, jumped highest to head his first goal for his new club past Muggleton.

Stoke, after setting a brisk pace at the top of the table during the first third of the season, have now lost three in succession, all to promotion rivals. "Our recent form has been a massive disappointment, but I have told the players that our season starts now," Brian Little, the manager, said. "At least we have time to put things right."

Darlington's goal, which came in the 67th minute and had looked sufficient to bring about victory, was scored by a powerful header from Gabbiadini from Brumwell's cross on the right. It typified the football played on a sodden pitch between two of the supposedly better teams in this division — muscular, direct and not hugely inventive.

Orient had shown little inclination to move the ball forward with any sense of purpose. Their one chance had come about when Ling, on the right side of midfield, saw his speculative shot sail a yard wide of Preece's right-hand post. And it was Ling who gave them an unlikely equaliser ten minutes from the end.

Watts, a substitute, crossed from the left and Ling, sliding into the Darlington penalty area, stabbed the ball in from ten yards. It was an equaliser that Orient hardly merited, yet they almost won the match two minutes from the end.

**DARLINGTON** (2-2-2): C. Liddell, S. Turk, G. Bennett — P. Brumwell (sub: M. Stone, 57min), L. Shaw (sub: M. Oliver, 64), M. Anderson — G. Hoyle (sub: D. Leyland, 80), M. Gabbadini.

**STOKE CITY** (2-2-2): C. Muggleton — L. Sigurdsson, P. Robinson, S. Woods — B. Peahy, K. West, G. Kinnear, D. Clifford, S. Small — R. Sigurdsson (sub: S. Sumner, 69), P. Thorne.

Referee: A. Butler

# Hodgson rues missed chances

Darlington.....1  
Leyton Orient.....1

By IVO TENNANT

DARLINGTON have slipped down the Nationwide League third division table over the past two months. In the form that they were in during the autumn, they would have won this fixture and, indeed, had sufficient possession to do so yesterday. David Hodgson, their manager, was left irked as much by Orient's tactics as his team's inability to win.

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when Preece was stranded well off his line. Inglethorpe's shot from an acute angle went just wide.

Hodgson was seething of what he perceived to be Orient's unambitious approach. "If they are one of the better teams in the third division, then God help English football," he said. "I am devastated that we dropped two points as they had only one shot on target — and it went in. We must have had 80 per cent of the play."

As for the pitch, relayed five weeks ago after a cracked Victorian sewer could not be repaired, it played well enough, given the amount of rain that had fallen in the North East over the past few days. What with a heavy stand, improved crowds and plans to develop the South End terracing, Darlington evidently have a future. Whether it is in the second division is another matter.

Last October, Darlington were top of the table. That they no longer are so highly placed has much to do with not making the most of the chances that they have created since then. Chances, for example, such as when Bennett saw his side-footed shot saved by Mackenzie and then when his header was kept out shortly before the Orient equaliser.

**DARLINGTON** (2-2-2): C. Liddell, S. Turk, G. Bennett — P. Brumwell (sub: M. Stone, 57min), L. Shaw (sub: M. Oliver, 64), M. Anderson — G. Hoyle (sub: D. Leyland, 80), M. Gabbadini.

**LEYTON ORIENT** (2-2-2): C. Mackenzie — J. Smith, M. Ling, K. Appiah, M. Best, M. Inglethorpe (sub: S. Carruth, 59), A. Senba.

Referee: M. Pica

Advertisement for 'Tendur hold' featuring a stylized logo and text.



Steve Waugh and MacGill combine to regain initiative for Australia  
England let advantage slip

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE (third day of five): England, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are five runs behind Australia

THE difference between an ordinary cricket team and a very good one is expressed not so much in individual heroics but in the ability to identify and arrest the key sessions of a match. This England team has never acquired the skill, Australia, as they reiterated to ruthless effect yesterday, possess it in abundance.

At teatime, the fourth Test could scarcely have been better balanced: Australia, having already scrapped tigerishly through the afternoon to avoid the threat of a significant shortfall, trailed by 18 runs with two wickets left. The match was there for the taking, but, on a small evening, one team raised their game and the other disintegrated.

All it took was a partnership of wit and teamwork, the type of thing at which these Australians are so consistently, confoundingly superior. Steve Waugh was batting and it is not possible to bat much better, but the England tail would undoubtedly have left him stranded long before Stuart MacGill was willing to do, long before he had taken the crisis out of the contest.

The ninth-wicket pair put on 88, which is a good deal more than England's last five wickets have mustered in the first innings of any Test so far. Against increasingly deflated bowling and ragged fielding, Australia obtained a lead of 70 and then, with grotesque inevitability, Michael Atherton was out for nought again.

Atherton was comprehensively bowled by the ninth ball that he faced and, with his footwork bankrupt and his bat coming down crookedly, he was fortunate to have lasted so long. After 210 not out in Hobart last week, he has registered the first "pair" of his Test career and made it likely that this series — in which he has 110 runs from eight innings — will eclipse even the statistical horror of his Caribbean tour earlier this year.

Perhaps this arduous, defining session of a day that was extended to nearly eight hours of cricket will be seen to have twitched the exit curtain on Atherton's international career. More immediately and fundamentally, however, it showed yet again that one side in this series stares the confrontations in the face, while the other averts its eyes.

There was some comfort for England in a spirited second-wicket stand, but even this was to end in frustration and farce. Mark Butcher, looking more convinced than he has done since the first Test, swept MacGill lustily into the midriff of an unwitting Michael Slater at short-leg.

It was a moment to stretch the most stoical of temperaments and Butcher cracked, gently flicking off a ball in a gesture born of disbelief. A compassionate match referee would find more to forgive in this than some of the antics that have gone unpunished, but, as Butcher retreated sadly, Alec Stewart was left to ponder the paradox that his own form had been restored with-

out curing England's vulnerability.

Waugh's unbeaten 122, spanning more than five hours, was a masterpiece by a player who has very few peers amid the relentless tests of character presented by the modern game. Yet he could not have achieved it without the prolonged support of the lower order, a precious commodity on which England now seem to have given up altogether.

Test matches are customarily dissected by their first innings and the performances of the two lower orders in four first innings to date give a revealing indication of why Australia may soon lead 3-0. England's aggregate, for wickets six to ten, is 198; Australia's is 644.

The compounding of these figures yesterday cost England their second opportunity to seize control of this match. They should have made more than 270 runs on Sunday, when Mark Taylor was surely misguided to put them in, and they should certainly have made more capital of reducing Australia to 151 for five.

As a holiday crowd of more than 43,000 built up on a mercifully milder morning, England were denied their first wicket by a highly questionable leg-before decision against Mark Waugh. For Angus Fraser, it was the wicket that he had begun to fear he would never take before his stalled Test career was revived by Alex Tudor's injury.

Fraser's control was doggedly dependable — though he failed to bowl a single maiden for the second successive innings — but it was Darren Gough who supplied the menace. He bowled the fastest spells of the series here and ultimately bowled himself to exhaustion. At least, this time, he emerged with the figures that he deserved.

In his second spell of the morning, Gough had Justin Langer caught at gully, shifting a drive, then dismissed Darren Lehmann as he tried to introduce himself on a former Yorkshire, team-mate with some outrageous strokes. Gough made the ball bounce steeply and, occasionally, he was timed at more than 90mph.

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

Table with columns for Australia and England, showing runs, wickets, and players. Includes sub-sections for 'AUSTRALIA: First Innings' and 'ENGLAND: First Innings'.



Steve Waugh acknowledges applause for his seventh century against England, during which he passed 7,000 Test runs

His support, however, was generally anemic.

Dean Headley is capable of high quality, but prone to cross. After lunch, replacing Darren Lehmann as he tried to introduce himself on a former Yorkshire, team-mate with some outrageous strokes. Gough made the ball bounce steeply and, occasionally, he was timed at more than 90mph.

Waugh, who had reached 7,000 runs and passed the Test aggregate of Sir Donald Bradman, took Australia ahead by stepping away to slash Gough through cover for four, then reached his century by lifting him over mid-wicket and, untypically, hooking him for two.

MacGill showed in Pakistan, two months ago, that he is no mug with the bat and he accumulated almost as fast as his partner, driving England to evident despair before Mullaney finished the innings with two wickets in three balls, too late to make the final act of this longest day seem anything but an anti-climax.

humiliations but also since he bowed superbly for no reward in Perth — Stewart's options were frighteningly few, for he had no specialist spin bowler on a turning pitch.

Waugh and Ian Healy were already much the most prolific sixth-wicket pair in Test history and they added a further 58 to their efforts before Healy pulled Fraser to long-leg. Damien Fleming offered nuisance runs again, but Matt Nicholson fell to Gough's swinging yorker and England took tea with hopes high, the new ball imminent and a small but valuable lead available. Instead, they toiled for another 100 minutes in the field while Waugh and MacGill rendered their optimism obsolete.

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Atherton, too late with his defensive shot, is bowled by Fleming to complete his first pair in Test cricket

Waugh dons the mantle of another all-time great

Some felt Baby-lion fell. Hind-head's turn will come." So said Shaw, or one of his characters, which amounts to much the same thing. Australia will fall one day, it has been said, and no doubt we shall all have a jolly good laugh. Until then, England will endure many more days like this, of apparent promise undermined by the loss of points at crucial moments.

This game was going rather well for them until Steve Waugh stepped in to shape it to his satisfaction with a superb hundred. Yes, that man, again! What wouldn't any team, at any time, give for such a cricketer? Lucky Australia, who have him until he loses his legs, his eyes or his curiosity. Actually, "lucky" Australia is not quite right. If you play cricket with a sense of purpose and root out the weeds, as they do, you produce such men. Real men.

This was one of the great days of his life, because it was the day that he went past 7,000 Test runs and also passed Bradman's Test aggregate. For a man who is known to have a deep knowledge of the game's past and an awareness of the great players who came before, he may think to himself: "Goodness gracious, I've scored more runs for Australia than the Don!" He admitted later that he felt a bit nervous as he went past the old master.

"I have always dreamed of scoring a hundred here, in front of a big crowd," he said. "I made one here two years ago against Sri Lanka, but there were not so many people that day. The context of the match made it more special."

Only four Australians now head him. He won't catch Allan Border, whose 11,774 runs are protected by a ring of fire that even Siegfried might have found forbidding, but there is no reason why he cannot move ahead of Mark Taylor, David Boon and Greg Chappell, the other men to have breached the 7,000-mark.

Michael Henderson watches the Australian master batsman score a superb century

Waugh's average after his first 50 Tests stood at 36, not a bad record, but not an outstanding one for a player who went into the team as a star of 20-year-old. Now, 60 Tests later, he rates a shade under 50 an innings. It was at the MCG, 13 summers ago to the week, that he joined Border's side, which had just been hammered in England — how distant it all seems — and every one of those 7,000 runs has been chiselled from the rockface.

He is not a man who draws attention to himself, unlike his brother, Mark, who plays strokes that batsmen with better records achieve only in their dreams. But to compare one twin unfavourably to the other is to miss the point, except to say that one is indisputably a great batsman and the other should be. Very good, so far as M. E. Waugh is concerned, is not good enough.

It has often been said that Steve is the less "interesting" player to watch, which depends on what the viewer finds interesting. Many moons ago, Simon Barnes wrote an excellent piece in The Times about Steve Davis, when he was snookering opponents out of sight, and observed that dramatic performers, such as Alex Higgins, were essentially shallow. They could be colourful and fun to watch, but the really interesting sportsmen were those who rewarded careful watching.

Nobody with a true love of cricket could find a study of S. R. Waugh less than absorbing. He has hauled himself to the highest peak and there he remains, compelled by a sense of self-worth that tolerates no hint of indulgence. Through the sweat of his brow, aligned to a considerable talent, he has become one of the all-time Aussie greats — and you can't say fairer than that.

In his hour of triumph, he refused to gloat, finding kind words for an England bowling effort led superbly by Gough. Atherton, alas, failed again. He cannot find a run at the moment and can have watched only with immense regret as Waugh charged to another century. It is a tough old life. Even Waugh was dropped once, against England, too. Now he is in perfect view. When you know the notes to sing, you can sing anything.

Tendulkar and Azharuddin hold key to India victory

NEW ZEALAND had just the best whiff of victory in their nostrils at the end of the third day of the second Test against India in Wellington and would be even happier about their prospects were it not for the continued presence at the crease of Sachin Tendulkar.

India had been 144 runs behind on the first innings, but the deficit had been erased before the close as Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly tucked into the New Zealand bowling with considerable relish. India were 179 for three at stumps with Ganguly on 47 and Tendulkar looking ominously determined on 42, a little pear of an innings that included a six and six fours.

Stephen Fleming, the New Zealand captain, tried everything that he knew to separate the free-scoring India pair, who put the spin attack of Paul Wiseman and Daniel Vettori to the sword in an unbroken partnership that is so far worth 67 runs.

morning if they were going to turn themselves into a winning position. "We need a big session first up tomorrow," he said. "The game is so finely balanced — they fought back well in the final session. If we can take two or three quick wickets in the morning and then be left chasing between 150 and 200, it could be the perfect Test match."

Wiseman was hit out of the attack after conceding 38 runs off eight overs and Vettori was pushed and struck for 44 off ten, but Fleming still saw them as potential match-winners. "We have to face the fact that they are probably the best players of spin in the world and sometimes they can play you out of the game. We just have to make sure we support Dan and Paul."

Earlier on, Vettori had put himself into the record books when he and Dion Nash added 137 runs for the eighth-wicket, one run more than the previous New Zealand best of 136, which had been set by Bev Congdon and Bob Cunis against West Indies in Port of Spain in 1972.

the ball when he ended the record partnership. Five minutes before lunch, Vettori exposed his leg stump and was bowled by Tendulkar for 57.

The comfort with which the tendulkars batted after an uncertain start, especially by Vettori, was proof that the pitch was likely to be benign enough for the powerful India batting contingent to flourish. Two of the three wickets that India did lose were born of impetuosity rather than the vagaries of the pitch or the strength of the New Zealand attack.

First, Ajay Jadeja dragged the ball on to his stumps as he attempted a flamboyant and ferocious pull to the bowling of Nash. Navjot Singh, his opening partner, was intent on no more than defence when Simon Doull trapped him leg-before for his eighth wicket of the match, but Rahul Dravid, normally an adhesive customer, gave Wiseman the charge and was bowled off his pads.

West Indies face an uphill task

WHAT with two sensational catches by Herschelle Gibbs, a catch that never was by Mark Boucher and a run-out that brought no appeal from the fielding side, the third day of the third Test match between South Africa and West Indies at Durban yesterday was anything but dull. More routine was the performance of West Indies, who, by the time that bad light ended play for the day, were once again tramping steadily towards defeat.

West Indies ended the day on 246 for eight, only 132 runs ahead of the home side. They subsided to an end-of-innings collapse of English proportions, losing five wickets for 13 runs to negate a combative partnership of 160 runs in 189 minutes for the third wicket by Brian Lara and Shivnarine Chanderpaul. It will take an uncharacteristic and unlikely resurgence by West Indies to salvage anything from this match. If their form on this tour is an indicator, it should all be over by tonight.

Gibbs started West Indies' hapless slide when he threw himself full length to his left at square leg to hold a full-blooded pull to bring Lara's innings to an end on 79. Lara had shown touches of his imperious best as he struck 15 fours off 139 balls. Chanderpaul, who went six balls later when he was caught and bowled by Shaun Pollock for 75, was not far behind in the quality of his strokeplay, hitting 13 boundaries off 169 deliveries.

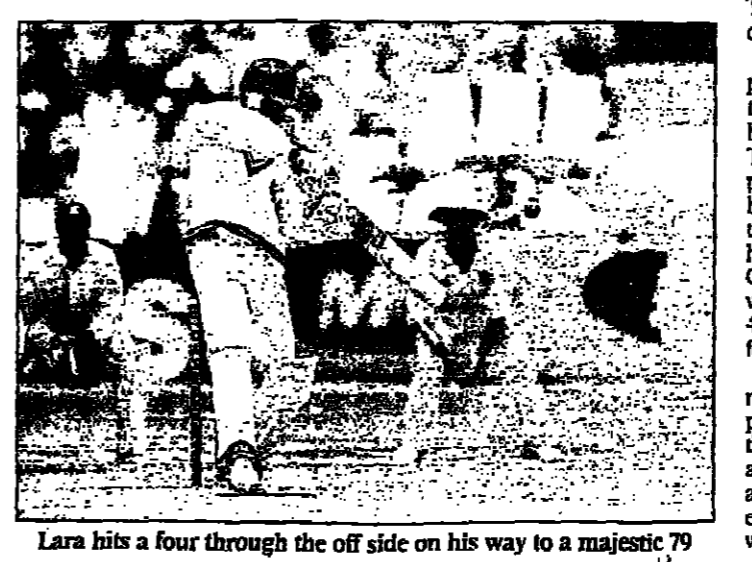
Then came the controversial dismissal of Carl Hooper. He had barely got in when he applied an inside edge to a ball from Pollock that nipped back off the seam. Boucher flung himself to his left and took the ball low down, immediately signifying that he had taken the catch cleanly, whereupon Hooper decided to walk without hesitation.

If he had known what television slow-motion replays were to reveal, he might not have been quite so prepared to take Boucher's word for it. The cameras showed clearly that Boucher had grounded the ball when his glove hit the turf as he completed his dive. This was an incident in which no blame could be apportioned to the umpire, since they played no part in the decision.

Had Hooper stayed put, Dave Orchard, the umpire at the bowler's end, would almost certainly have referred the decision to Cyril Mitchell, the third umpire, who could reasonably have come to only one conclusion. Perhaps Hooper will leave it to the men in white coats next time.

Not long afterwards, Gibbs produced an even more brilliant catch than his first when he sprinted from mid-wicket and held a mistimed pull from Darren Ganga as he hared towards the boundary and made the catch left-handed with both feet off the ground.

It had been a remarkable, incident-packed day thus far and the action was not yet over. Franklyn Rose was not yet over, Franklyn Rose appearing to be run out after colliding with Jacques Kallis. Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, formally completed the run-out, then immediately ran across to Orchard and told him that South Africa did not wish to appeal.



Lara hits a four through the off side on his way to a majestic 79

RUGBY UNION

Llewellyn form adds to Wales strength

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE last of the 62 Wales caps was by Gareth Llewellyn...

"Gareth has had a lot of experience and you have to keep looking to see who is coming up with the goods..."

If it were not for the ongoing dispute between Cardiff and Swansea...

The Barbarians team who play Leicester this afternoon should restore lustre to a traditional post-Christmas slot...

Kyran Bracken, who missed all the England autumn internationals with a back injury...

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: PERENNIAL ALSO-RANS CLINCH PLAY-OFF PLACE WITH 52-YARD FIELD GOAL

Jacke kick-starts Arizona's season

BY OLIVER HOLT

LAST week, the heroes belonged to Jake the Snake, the quarterback for the Arizona Cardinals...

Jacke, who - almost literally - had the rest of American football at his feet two years ago...

For long stretches of the match on Sunday against the San Diego Chargers...

of the wild-card spots on the last weekend of the regular season...

With 22sec of the game left, they and their supporters were celebrating as the Chargers prepared for what seemed to be their final play...

He had won the past two games for Arizona with field goals, but this time he was confronted with a 52-yard attempt...

"I saw it was pretty much down the middle," Jacke said, after he had made it back to the locker room...

Plummer, whom some observers have touted as the next Joe Montana, was delighted that the Cardinals had snapped their losing run...

There was little else to play for in other matches as the formalities of the end of the season were completed...

RESULTS

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL) Atlanta 35 Miami 16 Baltimore 19 Detroit 10 Chicago 18 Green Bay 16 Cincinnati 27 Tampa Bay 16 Kansas City 19 Carolina 27 New York Jets 23 Buffalo 45 New York Jets 31 New England Patriots 10 New York Giants 20 San Francisco 28 St Louis 19 Arizona 16 San Diego 13 Denver 28 Seattle 21 Dallas Washington 7

American Conference Eastern division W L T F A NY Jets 12 4 0 416 286 Buffalo 10 6 0 409 333 Miami 10 6 0 327 282 New England 9 7 0 337 329 Indianapolis 3 13 0 310 444

Central division Jacksonville 10 5 0 371 325 Tennessee 9 8 0 350 320 Pittsburgh 7 8 0 260 282 Baltimore 5 10 0 293 335 Cincinnati 5 13 0 268 452

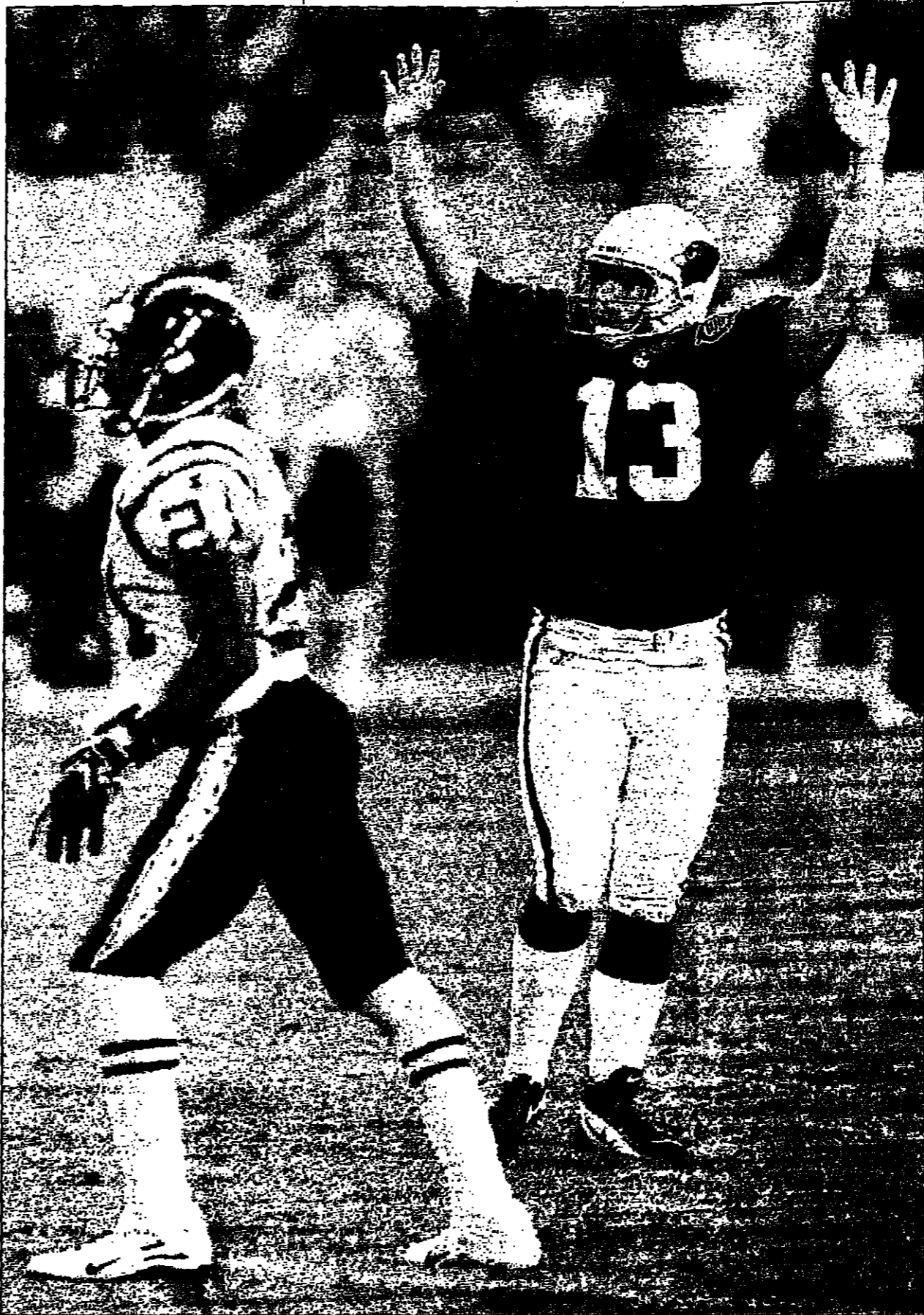
Western division Denver 14 2 0 501 309 Seattle 8 8 0 372 310 Oakland 8 8 0 326 365 Kansas City 7 9 0 227 363 San Diego 5 11 0 241 342

National Conference Eastern division Dallas 10 6 0 365 275 Arizona 10 6 0 355 373 NY Giants 8 8 0 287 309 Washington 10 10 0 318 421 Philadelphia 1 13 0 161 344

Central division Minnesota 15 1 0 556 236 Green Bay 11 5 0 408 319 Tampa Bay 8 8 0 314 256 Carolina 8 8 0 306 378 Detroit 4 12 0 276 368

Western division Atlanta 14 2 0 442 288 Houston 12 4 0 473 328 New Orleans 10 6 0 305 356 Carolina 4 12 0 336 413 St Louis 4 12 0 285 378

\* denotes qualified for play-offs Not including last night's match Jacksonville vs Pittsburgh



A field goal by Chris Jacke, the Arizona Cardinals kicker, put his team in the play-offs for the first time since 1982

SPORT IN BRIEF

Talks over players' strike end in failure

BASKETBALL: The cancellation of the National Association (NBA) season appears to be inevitable after the league and players' union exchanged final proposals...

BOXING: Anthony Maynard, of Birmingham, is to challenge Billy Scherer, of Luton, the defending champion, for the European lightweight championship at York Hall, Bethnal Green, on January 16...

SKATING: Kristina Koznick, of the United States, won the World Cup slalom race at Semmering, Austria, in an aggregate time of 1min 40.49sec yesterday...

RUGBY LEAGUE: Wendell Sailor will line up alongside Leeds Rhinos' other leading overseas players in the second Tesley's Bitter Challenge match on Friday...

CYCLING: Julian Gould, the overall leader of the Notts and Derby Cyclo-Cross League in his comeback season after injury, finished third to George Richardson in the twelfth round at Matlock yesterday...

BOWLING

Age of little concern to sprightly Ward

DOREEN WARD, a sprightly 74-year-old grandmother, who has undergone two hip replacement operations in the past three years...

In her opening match in the Boddingtons Newton Hall International Classic at Blackpool, Ward defeated Di Hunt, a successful crown green bowler...

BALLS

Viv Raddy 21-16 to join Ward in the second round

Margaret Dyer, who will be making her tenth consecutive appearance in the international series in Belfast, made a poor start when she lost 21-18 to Sue Kearsley from the local club...

The ten qualifiers yesterday will be joined today by six seeds, including Caroline McAlister, the women's world indoor singles champion...



Poole, of the South, races ahead in the All-Star game

ICE HOCKEY

North hold their nerve

THE North won the first All-Star Sekonda Superleague game at London Arena yesterday afternoon with a 3-1 penalty shoot-out victory over a team representing the South...

The absence of any body contact reduced the entertainment value of the match, although David Simms, the public address announcer, did his best to inject some much-needed enthusiasm...

by the South. P. C. Drouin, of Bracknell Bees, was the fastest skater, John Wynne, of Sheffield Steelers, had the hardest shot, while Shane Johnson, of London Knights, won the puck control competition...

The North controlled events early in the All-Star game and Rob Wilson and Ed Courtenay gave them a two-goal lead after just seven minutes...

before Mike Bishop opened their account towards the end of the first period. Jonathan Weaver and Kevin Conway extended the lead to 4-1 for the North...

The North won the shoot-out comfortably, with Weaver, Courtenay and Shawn Byram all successful. Eric Flint was the only successful shooter for the South.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES section containing various legal notices, including company registrations, court orders, and public notices. Includes contact information for legal services.

SAILING

Golding scraps plans and closes the gap on leader

THE raging storms that have caused devastation to the Sydney-Hobart fleet have not affected the Around Alone Race leaders well to the south...

Sea is being replaced by two merging high pressure systems, bringing "light winds that may become a problem for the leaders in Class 1".

Giovanni Soldini, of Italy, in F1A, still leads the Class 1 60s, but, as he makes his way up the west coast of New Zealand at the relatively slow pace of five knots, he is having to fight off Mike Golding, of Great Britain, in Team Group 4...

without tacking off to the south, a move that would lose him even more miles to J.P. Moutiller, who leads the class in Cray Valley, 370 miles ahead of him...

Legal, Public, Company & Sailing Correspondent contact information.

HOCKEY

Midlands look to retain title

SALLY WRIGHT, the captain, has admitted that the Midlands has an excellent chance of retaining their title in the under-21 regional tournament when they open their campaign against the South at Milton Keynes today...

What they said during the Sporting Year — as noted by Mel Webb

‘Don’t ever think you have let us down. You are a great player and I love you to bits’

— Tony Adams to David Beckham



This is without doubt the worst moment of my career. I will always regret my actions. I have apologised to the England players and management and I want every England supporter to know how deeply sorry I am. David Beckham tries to make amends for his sending-off that led to England's exit from the World Cup against Argentina

He hasn't got much character, not much personality and he's a bit boring, but as a striker he is a different class. Gary Crawshaw, Stevenage striker, assesses Alan Shearer, his opposite number, in the run-up to the Conference side's FA Cup tie against Newcastle United

He said to me: "I'm just calling to let you know that we're not frightened of you. We'll play you anywhere — even on Hackney Marshes." Victor Green, Stevenage chairman, on a call from Kenny Dalglish, manager of Newcastle, before their fourth-round FA Cup tie

I think when the officials walked into our club today, they expected to see a ramshackle, broken-down cove with some sheep eating the grass because we couldn't afford a mower. Green on the visit from Newcastle's safety officials

On the pitch they've been a credit to themselves, to the club and to the town of Stevenage. But off it they've got a lot to learn about manners. If they were a Premier League club they would have probably been done up for bringing the game into disrepute. Dalglish after his team had finally beaten Stevenage

He shook my hand at the end but as a non-League manager I just wanted someone as big as Kenny Dalglish to say "Well done". But he didn't. Paul Fairclough, Stevenage manager, responds to Dalglish's comments

I looked across at their bench when Gary Crawshaw scored for us and I could see fear in the faces on the other side. Fairclough after his side pulled the reply back to 2-1

The whole thing is an incestuous cycle and the only job I know where you can spend £15 million and fail, go away for six months on the golf course and come back and get a good job. Blow £15 million in business and you'd never get a job in the profession again. Fairclough on the difficulty in getting into Football League management from the outside

We wish them well in the FA Trophy. We hope they get beaten in the next round. Dalglish offers Stevenage generous good wishes

I thought that if you took their four goals out, we were the better team. Fairclough after Stevenage had been beaten 4-1 by Lincoln City in the second round of this year's FA Cup. He was sacked ten days later

I am 100 per cent sure what happened was accidental. It's time now for everyone to get off his back. Glenn Hoddle backs Alan Shearer before the World Cup finals after the Newcastle striker's

Today I'm not speaking. Chris Eubank on being asked for an interview

Frank Maloney is so superstitious he won't walk under a black cat. Mickey Duff

controversial challenge on Neil Lennon, the Leicester City midfielder

I am totally confident that I will eventually prove to everyone that the incident was not intentional. Shearer

If it hadn't been him he would not have had to put up with all the publicity that has followed. It's been ridiculous and I didn't want him charged. Neil Lennon

As far as I'm concerned his feet should be put in cement, he should be nailed down and never allowed to leave this club. David O'Leary, Leeds manager, on defender Lucas Radebe

I am pleased to put the record straight and in doing so clear my name. I was always confident that I would. Shearer after the Football Association returned a "not proven" verdict on the incident

It means that Alan's been vindicated. I can't understand why it had to go this far in the first place. Kenny Dalglish, the

We must learn from this defeat, and perhaps we have to accept that we are in the Five Nations second division alongside Scotland and Ireland. Robert Howley, Wales captain

After 3½ weeks on this shoebox, it's worth having a beer or two. Paul Cayard, EF Language skipper, outlines his celebration plans after steering the Swedish yacht to victory in the fifth leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race

He literally committed suicide. Terry Danstan after beating Alexander Gurov in 20 seconds to win the European cruiserweight title

You can never say die till the fat lady sings. Stuart Raper, Castleford coach, mops his metaphors after the Tigers' last-minute Challenge Cup defeat of Leeds Rhinos

If I had stayed off Nasseem there wouldn't have been a fight. I might as well have stayed in the corner and had a cup of tea or something. Wayne McCullough criticises Nasseem Hamed's style after the Sheffield man's points victory in their fight in Atlantic City

Newcastle manager, gives his verdict

It's the last time I'll be involved at Lansdowne Road — unless they pick me for the rugby. Paul McGrath after his emotional farewell to Irish fans in his testimonial in Dublin

Lions should roar, not wheeze. What the England fans really want to see this summer is Gazza blazing a trail and lighting up the pitch in France, not a cigarette in the dug-out. Casper Research Campaign spokesman on revelations that Paul Gascoigne smokes

Ossie Ardiles was on 40 a day when he won the World Cup with Argentina, and there's a fellow called Vialli at Chelsea, too. It didn't bother me. Hoddle

I mean my absolute No 1 dream that I will die happy if it happens — I want to see a UFO. They're real. I don't care if you look at me like that — UFOs are a definite fact and I've got to see one soon. I've got to. Gascoigne on his ambition in life

Football is my life and will remain my life... but I have to move on from being just a player now. Becoming a coach is the next step and I don't think of a better place to do it than England. Diego Maradona reveals his future plans

My advice to him would be to learn to manage himself before he thinks about managing bootlagers. John Barrow, secretary of the League Managers' Association

I've been lucky enough to play in 54 Test matches and, for a grubby-haired little schoolboy from a council house in Stroud, I can't complain. Jack Russell, England wicketkeeper, after announcing his retirement from international cricket

He has two chances — slim and no chance. And slim is out of town! Don King on Lennox Lewis's chances of beating Evander Holyfield

I've been written off more times than Damon Hill's cars. Billy Hardy, European featherweight boxing champion, preparing to defend his title against Paul Ingle, Commonwealth champion

As soon as he came round, he was saying "I want to stay on. I want to stay on" — that says everything about his enthusiasm. Hoddle piles the praise on Michael Owen after he recovered from a collision to score the winner against Morocco

I think play-acting has been a feature of the World Cup. Blanc is a guy with exemplary conduct throughout the tournament. He raised his hand, but the

play-acting of Bilic was dreadful — but everybody is doing it. The reaction of Alan Hansen, the BBC pundit, after France defender Laurent Blanc had been sent off for violent conduct against Slaven Bilic in his country's World Cup semi-final victory

Bilic will be going into the dressing-room thinking "I've let my fellow pro down here." Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager

Goals are like children — they are all beautiful. Christian Vieri, Italy's injured striker, after refusing to disclose which was his favourite goal of France 98

I'm not worried about him and you can't just try to stop Ronaldo because we know we have to stop Rivaldo, Bebeto, maybe Denilson as well. Frank Leboeuf on the challenge facing the France defence

One hundred and sixty million people will be cheering for Brazil on Sunday. We will not let the opportunity go away. It is in our hands. It is a dream final — a dream cup. Mario Zagallo, the Brazil coach, prepares for the World Cup final

They committed the most heinous, howling and unjustifiable mistake of their lives. Correio Braziliense, the Brazilian newspaper, on the decision of Zagallo and Lidio Toledo, the team doctor, to play a manifestly unfit Ronaldo in the final

We lost the World Cup but I won another cup: my life. I went to sleep and then it

THE REFEREE UNDER FIRE

I will say it only once — the referee's performance was diabolical. Mark McGhee, Wolverhampton Wanderers manager, on Roy Pearson after his side lost 1-0 away to Huddersfield to a goal in the ninetieth minute

I gave the referee a bit of abuse because I thought he cost us the game. Not unexpectedly, I was reported and I accept that I was out of order. McGhee after being charged with misconduct by the FA for criticising referee Paul Danson

For me, if it had been Old Trafford, Arsenal or Stamford Bridge, the referee would not have got out of the ground, but our crowd are nice people, and we don't have a Lynch mob. Roy Hodgson, Blackburn Rovers manager, on Peter Jones's performance in the 4-3 home defeat by Chelsea

We're going to bomb and kill people in Iraq and this is what they are thinking about — what sort of mentality is that? Instead

For him to come into the garage acting like an animal and accuse me of trying to kill him is totally unacceptable. David Coulthard after a collision with Michael Schumacher at the chaotic Belgian Grand Prix

He's got an action different to other bowlers. I have my opinions which I will make known to the authorities, match referees, officials and the ICC. I'm not prepared to make any further comment. David Lloyd's pointed remarks about the bowling action of Muttiah Muralitharan, the Sri Lanka spinner, which led to a severe reprimand for the England coach

Perhaps it would help if England got a coach who kept his mouth shut. Geoff Boycott, television commentator, as Muralitharan bowled his way into the record books with a 16-wicket haul in the Oval Test

If you think I'm going to run round Brighton beach you have another think coming. 16 stone-plus Russell Claydon, winner of the BMW International golf tournament, reacting to suggestions that he may be an even better player if he lost some weight

This is terrible for me. I feel sorry for them, especially because I've never seen a Brazil team under pressure like they were tonight. Former Holland captain Ronald Gaull's thoughts after his team had lost in a penalty shoot-out to Brazil in the World Cup semi-final

It was not me making those saves, it was God. Taffarel, the Brazil goalkeeper, after making two penalty saves in the shoot-out in Marseilles

We were unaware of the clause in Dublin's contract until the Coventry chairman Bryan Richardson made the disclosure on Monday. It was very nice of Mr Richardson to let us know. John Gregory, Aston Villa manager, on how he was alerted to Dion Dublin's availability

I want to run a football team, learn languages and help starving kids. Dion Dublin

I've got more chance of winning Miss World than Clydebank have of playing in Dublin. Jack Steedman, former Clydebank owner, on their plans to relocate

I don't want to increase our offer. If you go down to the local supermarket to buy something with a 30p price tag on it you don't normally offer 45p. Gregory remaining steadfast after hearing of Leeds's increased bid for Dublin

If you play, you get paid. Simple enough — I don't think many people will quibble with that.

I have very fond memories of Nottingham and its people. They were always good to me and I always said how much I liked the place. Pierre van Hooftjdonk upon his growing interest to Nottingham Forest

What is money if you are not happy as a private person? Every time I have been home, I have wanted to stay a little longer. Brian Laudrup, Chelsea's homekick forward

You must be as strong in March when the fish are down. Gianluca Vialli, mistakes his chips as Chelsea go briefly to the top of the Premiership

Nobody enjoys playing against him even now. You worry about keeping all your teeth. A member of the Denmark squad preferring to remain anonymous before facing veteran Wales forward Mark Hughes in the European championship

He's certainly a great kid and shows a lot of ability. Michael Owen, old before his time at Ipswich, offers a mature verdict on Aston Villa's 17-year-old defender Gareth Barry

He wasn't a bad player really, you know, average. Paul Dalglish offering a revisionist historian's view of his father Kenny's playing talents

I don't want to build the boy up too much or put too much pressure on him, but Paul Dalglish can be our Michael Owen. Craig Brown, Scotland manager, clearly not believing the Newcastle forward's surname imposes enough of a burden of expectation

A reminder to spectators — don't park your cars too close to the ground. Peter Fenwick, Sunderland Cricket Club chairman, after signing Philo Wallace, the big-hitting West Indies opener

I didn't mind so much having my leg broken — I was just gutted at being overtaken by a Skoda. Andy Rigby, Vauxhall Rally of Wales spectator, who suffered a broken leg when hit by the Skoda Felicia, driven by Jeremy Nolan, which he was trying to avoid

Apparently there had been a shellfish ban there, but nobody told us. Darren Clarke, golfer, who contracted food poisoning after eating crab during the Portuguese Open

Gordon Strachan, Coventry City manager, fines Dublin two weeks' wages after he refused to play for the club in case an injury scuppered a possible transfer

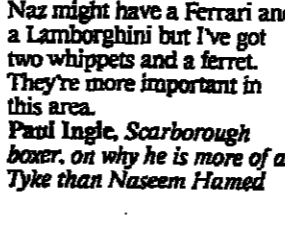
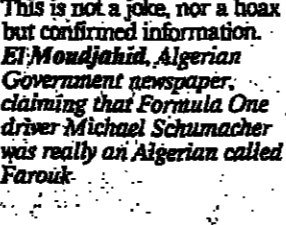
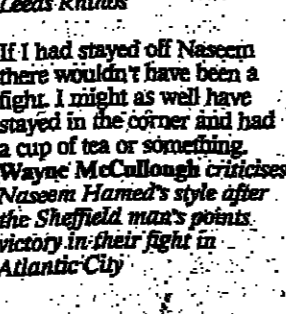
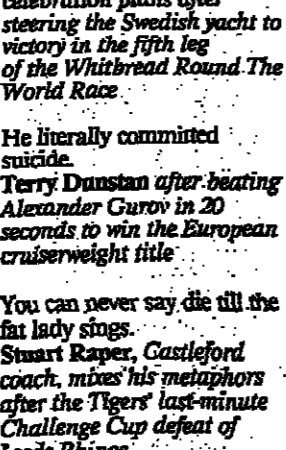
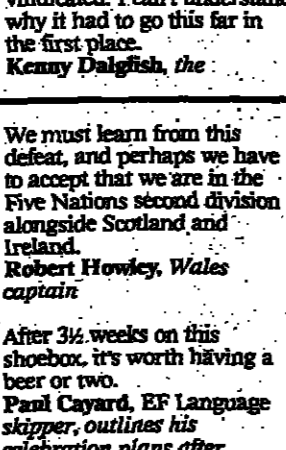
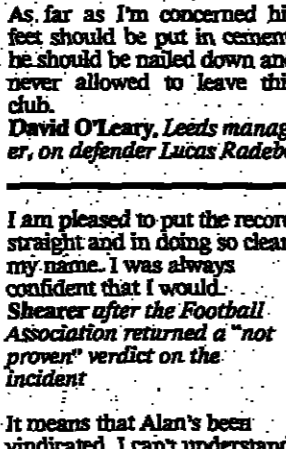
People were laughing at us. The only way we were bigger was in terms of ego. Strachan after Coventry had been beaten 2-0 by Luton Town, of the second division, in the Worthington Cup

I thought we came back well because in the first half we were lower than Captain Nemo. We came back from the depths. Strachan after Coventry had drawn 0-0 with visiting West Ham

We have five points now. We only need another 80 to win the league. Joe Kinnear, Wimbledon manager, after a 1-1 draw early in the season

Emile Heskey's got a baby face. He's got soft, gentle eyes — but he's awesome. Tony Gubba, Match of the Day commentator, waxes lyrical about the youthful Leicester striker

On Talks on players' strike in failure... their nerve... I would... I would... I would...



The Editor Conran London

Football Mr and Mrs R.C. and Gladys Gra... Bi Jun Dec Ric: Sar Mr cha ny, act Ro Fo mi an: W: for be by tu OJ 32 fo C B M S H G S i C R

O J k E T r B r b C P L C C C o b S c m S c i o s e E t E s o f S c D s c r m C w J o S m D W v b o f M S T R T T S A i n n s e P l y j n



Tony Cottee, the Leicester goal-scorer, battles past Sheffield Wednesday's Andy Hinchliffe and Pavel Srnicek in Saturday's match. Photograph: Ross Kinnaid/Allsport

# Time to sign up your new team to get bang on target

**T**oday we announce more ON-Target prize winners. Opposite, ON-Target, a new competition, for which all Times Fantasy League teams are automatically entered...

Playing the game is simplicity itself. If your team's points total matches the number or numbers in that week's ON-Target box, you have qualified to enter a draw which could win you £500 cash plus an EA Sports Pack containing, among other items, the videogame FIFA 99 for Playstation or PC.



was Ronny Johnsen (see opposite), but there were impressive scorers among the players of Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester United.

■ This week, we are publishing player lists updated to include all games played on Boxing Day, as well as last week's Charlton v Aston Villa game...

games on December 28 and 29, and the name of the winner of the monthly prize for December, will appear on these pages a week today.

■ It is not too late to send in your entry for last week's special Christmas Fantasy Quiz. In an unprecedented burst of seasonal generosity...

PRIZES table listing various prizes like £50,000 to the top Fantasy League manager, £10,000 to the runner-up, etc.

## As I was saying

Good Christmas? Not bad. Thanks for the Newcastle socks, by the way. Black ones, I notice. Yes, the Newcastle shops refused to admit the existence of any white ones...

## CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Main player list table with columns for player name, club, and points. Includes sub-sections for GOALKEEPERS, FULL BACKS, CENTRE BACKS, and MIDFIELDERS.

## HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club.

THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM. Includes fields for team name, player selection, and contact information.

## FANTASY LEAGUE SERVICES

- Use these numbers for all the information you need: CHECKLINE, TRANSFER LINE, SUPER LEAGUE FAXBACK, HELPLINE.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'So usele' and 'C'.

مكتبة الرياض

# Nine-point Ronny on cloud nine

It's not often that a player other than a striker notches nine points in one game but our £500 winner has no reason to complain

What's in a name? Danny Baker, in his Saturday Times column, identified the modernising of certain football names: the new generation of players contain plenty of "Jimmies" but few "Jimmies". Jimmy Redknapp? Jamie Greaves? Neither works, does it? Bobby Fowler? Robbie Charlton? The point seems to be proved.

These days, among the Darrens and Dions, not to mention the Pierluigis and Gianluigas, a "Ronny" seems as anachronistic as an Albert or Stanley. Ron Fletcher was an acceptable moniker in the Seventies, and Ron Flowers before that, but British mothers and fathers do not seem to be naming their children Ronald any more.

In Norway, things are obviously different. If Ronny Johnsen, Manchester United's Norway international central defender, is any yardstick. Or are they? His full name, according to the Professional Footballers' Association's Footballers' Gazette, is actually Jean Ronny Johnsen.

On Saturday, in Manchester United's 3-0 victory over Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford, Johnsen put in a performance that made him a clear winner of our Fantasy Player Of The Week award (the second successive Norway international to take the coveted title after Stig Inge Bjornebye last week). Nine points were gained by his contribution to his team's clean sheet and, more unexpectedly, two of United's three goals.

The first, a downward header past Dave Beasant from close range, was nothing out of the ordinary for a central defender, but his second, a thunderous right-foot volley after Henning Berg had nodded down a David Beckham free kick, was more reminiscent of Ronaldo than Ron Harris.

Johnsen played in all four of Norway's World Cup games in France, but has not been able to appear so consistently for his club. He has attracted a series of injuries, most unexpectedly when fouled by Michael Owen, of all people, in last year's United v Liverpool game, a challenge for which Owen, improbably, was sent off.

Some have put Manchester United's inconsistent defensive performances down to the fact that Johnsen has not been a regular in the team, and to the failure of Jaap Stam to find a steady partner. Certainly Johnsen would seem to be the obvious candidate, although it was his misplaced pass in the second half of the home game with Middlesbrough that prevented the visitors from their ultimately decisive third goal.

No surprise, then, that Johnsen featured in this week's winning team, Only50million?, chosen by Giles Boylett of Maidenhead.



The Only50million? XI	
E De Gooij (CHE)	3
C Serrant (NEW)	0
M Ball (EVE)	3
R Johnsen (MAN)	9
S Prier (LEI)	3
I Taylor (AST)	0
P Gussing (MID)	2
J Carragher (LIV)	3
M Overmars (ARS)	3
D Dublin (COV)	4
J F Hasselbaink (LEE)	5
Total points:	35

"I stuck with him through the injury," Mr Boylett said — as good a decision as bringing in Ed De Gooij, Dion Dublin and Michael Ball in mid-November, all of whom scored points on Boxing Day. Dublin, in fact, earned four points over two matches with two assists, from Richard Rufus's own goal in last week's Charlton v Villa game, and Ricardo Saneira's consolation goal on Boxing Day.

Other notable contributors to Mr Boylett's total of 35 points were Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, who scored a late goal in Leeds United's 3-0 victory at Newcastle, as well as providing an assist, earning a total of five points. Hasselbaink's 90th-minute effort emphasised that it is getting tighter at the top by the week. Four entrants tied for second place, with 34 points, all of whom would have overtaken Mr Boylett but for the Leeds goal.

Mr Boylett, whom we managed to speak to before he set off for a week's holiday, does not support any particular team. "I can take an unbiased view," he said. It is in keeping with his profession, as an independent financial adviser. In the light of his £500 win (plus £100-worth of sports equipment), did he regard Fantasy League as a good investment? "Obviously," he said.



Another Big Ron at Old Trafford: Norway international Ronny Johnsen has not had the best of luck with injuries, but staked his claim to be Jaap Stam's regular defensive partner with a clean sheet and two goals from set plays on Boxing Day. Do the Old Trafford management agree? They do, Ron (Ron)

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100			
1	Phil Clarke	Shabadi United	224
2	Michael Langdon	Hempsteads	224
3	Sean Morgan	D. Not Agan Ref	222
4	Tom Murren	D. Not Agan Ref	222
5	Robert Anderson	Roberts Rovers	219
6	Sean Eastwood	Coen Brothers	217
7	David Young	On The Wings	215
8	David Ward	In The City	214
9	Terry Bullen	Dion Don Dion	214
10	Nigel Ross	Kalps Kings &	210
11	Richard Deane	On The Wings	210
12	Terry Bullen	El Tel's Revenge	210
13	Thomas Macklin	It's All Stars	209
14	John Latham	Sold At The Bids	209
15	Osie Smith	Corson Fc 5	209
16	Phil Tuder	Pin-Ups 7	209
17	Scott Brett	Scotts Stars	208
18	Bob Poynton	Robert's Raiders	208
19	John White	Fusegear	208
20	L. Samuels	Spartan Moseley	208
21	Paul Gibson	Europa Judds	207
22	Richard Verheij	Porro Pick	206
23	James Walsh	Tigers Angle	206
24	Brian Highdale	Dons' Deans FC	205
25	Ray Walker	Blue & Black Bar	205
26	Alan Westrup	Tyneside Army 94	205
27	Steve Ogden	Lokomov No Go	205
28	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	204
29	Phillip Martin	South West	204
30	Ian Fitzroy	We Hate Beckham	204
31	Martin White	Grampus Gunners	204
32	Ross Donohue	828,360	203
33	Paul Barber	Shardlow	203
34	Andrew P. Hoell	Shorston	203
35	James McGregor	Do I Need Overic	203
36	Paul Gibson	Euro Stars	202
37	James Riley	The Promx Stars	202
38	Murray Macmillan	Murray's Marvels	202
39	Gary Lawton	Ton-Co. Team	202
40	Peter Donnelly	Coals 'n Ice	202
41	Pauline Huggarth	Trumpetuesday	202
42	Cliff Ross	Barnes Fleet	201
43	Jonathan Bewick	Bezza's Boyz	201
44	Sean Nichol	Millon United	201
45	Don Shorter	Don 5	201
46	Brian Campbell	Saturday Sunday	201
47	Ron Alport	Octopus	200
48	John Hill	Millon United	200
49	Oliver Chapman	Wigston Rangers	200
50	Andrew Marsh	Earl My Goal	200
51	Tim Gower	Heart Of Glass	200
52	Michael Scuffie	Aldoswad&g	200
53	James Inglis	Pride O The Rock	199
54	Charles Pascoe	Alans Strikers	199
55	Samuel Lewis	Sarmston Pops	199
56	Nicholas Langford	Grossincorpore	199
57	Robert Todd	Boys Blasters	199
58	Darren Braamigan	Monday Mooners	199
59	Tim Gower	Hatchester Who?	199
60	Marjan Knappman	Revolution 1	199
61	Gordon Crutchley	Super Saddlers B	198
62	William Mann	Legionnaires	198
63	Ian Williams	Grant Pan Pops	198
64	Mike Shipley	Minus Threat 10	198
65	Stephen Marshall	Dorchesterway	198
66	Jim Byrne	Parenite	198
67	D. Osborne	George F C	197
68	Stuart Rutter	Sportswella	197
69	Nathan Smalley	Nathan's Lads	197
70	Ross Broadhurst	Team 7452	197
71	David Perry	York/York/West	197
72	B. Webber	Colour Me Blue	197
73	Steve Walker	Team C	197
74	William Lawrence	Throw In Lads	197
75	Tommy Gannon	Nainot Two	197
76	Nicholas Keighley	These Eat Beans	196
77	Phil Tuder	Peter 7	196
78	David Perry	Highgate	196
79	David Ward	Just A Second FC	196
80	Andy Lockhart	Caroline B.	196
81	Simon Barber	The Times Eleven	196
82	Phillip Hadden	Premier Crusade	196
83	Mike Hawke	Holyburn Yeager	196
84	Zane Radcliffe	One Paul Byrne	194
85	Jeremy Ives	Inter Deight	194
86	Nicholas Fennell	Fillessieurs	194
87	Nathan Carroll	Nath's Champs	194
88	Joe Singh	Inter City 442	194
89	Ian Gillson	Amchair Horved	194
90	Stuart Rutter	Muggs Perm	194
91	Kevin Styles	Olivevinejnjnj	193
92	Brian Hilton	Religion Carts	193
93	D. C. Bates	Smoke's Reserve	193
94	E. Scudetto	Gatto Nero	193
95	Keith Davies	Lees Eleven	193
96	Vandata Tyrwell	Manay City	193
97	Andy Prier	Andy's Alstars	193
98	Ian Cooke	Thronowen	193
99	David Daley	The Daley XI	193
100	James Kerr	Serious Squad	193

## So what if your team is useless? Just hit the number

There are 500 good reasons for entering a new team now for ON-Target, where you match the points to have a chance to win

Congratulations this week to Ms S Townsend of Enfield, the second winner of ON-Target, who today finds herself £500 richer and possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen other managers have also won themselves prizes. Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. The Times has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned FIFA 99 game. Every week you have the chance to win: 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs 10 additional runners up: FIFA 99 CD-Rom. Each EA Sports Pack contains: FIFA 99 for the Playstation; FIFA 99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a record bag. IF YOU already have a team in the main Fantasy League, then you are all ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes. The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week. Just have your PIN number handy to call the winners line on:

**THIS WEEK'S ON-TARGET SCORE**

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points?

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(ex UK +44 870 901 4270)  
Calls charged at national rates



If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could win the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes.

HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on 0870 901 4270 (calls charged at national rate).



should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning. If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won. Managers with the correct points who have not called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules. Winners This week's winners are: Ms S Townsend of Enfield (£500 plus EA Sports Pack); Mr Neil Hastic of Camforth; Mr Jack Carr of Tamworth; Mr Jamie Graham of Wolverhampton and Mr Peter Mills of South Croydon (EA Sports Packs); Mr Nicholas White of Ramcorn; Mr Tom Hopgood of Peterborough; Mr G Wheatley of Wrexham; Mr Melvin Patterson of Houghton Le Spring; Mr D J Brown of Hove; Mr Andrew Dingley of Droithwich; Mrs Sheila Fowler of Wakefield; Mr David Appleby of Newcastle Upon Tyne; Mr D Heath of Cambridge and Mr Aaron Bush of Bristol (FIFA 99 CD-Roms).

### FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ

Last week's quiz was our Christmas special where a magnum of champagne and three runners-up prizes were offered to the first correct answer that found a seasonal connection between the four players pictured. The winner will be announced next week.

This week you are invited to search in your body of footballing knowledge to find the tenuous link between this quartet...

### CHECK YOUR SCORES TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERBOARD			
1	Robert Anderson	Roberts Rovers	219
2	Stuart Rutter	Sportswella	197
3	Nicholas Fennell	Fillessieurs	194
4	Richard Low	Geocr United	192
5	David Swifbank	Titus All Stars	192
6	Alison Carter	The Pisholes	192
7	Sam Steward	Brand 1	190
8	David Sleight	The Superantics	190
9	Richard Burton	No Fear	190
10	Gratham Jevon	Gage	189
11	Jonathan Dearlove	Subbie's Crusade	189
12	Robert Lizard	The Hill Bites	189



Marc Overmars, who features in this week's winning team

## Dead-ball magicians liven prospects

THE FACT that Premiership managers spend so much time on the training ground working on set-pieces demonstrates the growing importance of dead-ball situations in the game of football today. This should also be considered by managers in The Times Fantasy League when it comes to leaving into the transfer market. There are two types of player who benefit from dead-ball situations in the world of Fantasy League: the provider of the cross — the type of player who can pick out a target man from fifty yards for the all important assist — and the target man himself. Paul Ince comes into both of these categories to some extent. Although he tends to leave the final strike at goal from

free-kicks to his midfield partner in crime, Jamie Redknapp, Ince is a dab-hand at rolling the ball to the Anfield pin-up to grab two points. This was shown on Boxing Day when Ince touched a free-kick to Redknapp who lashed home from 12 yards. Ince's heading ability is also quite often underrated. He has already notched up several

goals so far this season with his head, and rose to set up Jamie Carragher on Saturday. One of the best headers of the ball in the Premiership is undoubtedly the Chelsea and Uruguayan midfielder Gustavo Poyet, although he now seems likely to miss several weeks through injury. Others in this category are Newcastle's Nikos Dabizas and Tottenham's Sol Campbell, both central defenders. Even United's Ronny Johnsen, scorer of two goals on Boxing Day, and Leicester's Matt Elliott regularly find themselves on the scoresheet even though their prime concern is to prevent goals leaking at the other end. The providers of these telling balls are a bit more obvious. It comes as no surprise to see the

words "... headed in from a Beckham corner" make several appearances in the newspapers throughout the course of the season. Similarly, Darren Anderton's crossing ability is so good that even David Ginola doesn't get a look-in when Tottenham gain a corner or a free-kick in a dangerous situation. Leeds full-back Ian Harte and Leicester wing-back Steve Guppy both pose a threat with inswinging left-footed corners and we cannot leave the category of accurate passers without mentioning Paul Gascoigne. Gazza still has as much ability as anyone to make a pin-point pass and proved that on Saturday when he picked out Brian Deane with a free-kick.

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MATT SIMS

RACING: TRAINER'S ROW LEAVES MAGUIRE READY TO STEP DOWN AS STABLE JOCKEY

Nicholson's future put in doubt

By Richard Evans RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE future of David Nicholson as trainer at Jackdaws Castle was thrown into doubt yesterday after a heated row with Colin Smith, owner of the Cotswold stable, over Adrian Maguire, the yard's retained jockey.

After weeks of speculation, Maguire is set to stand down as the retained jockey at Jackdaws Castle, which will leave Richard Johnson as the number one rider at the state-of-the-art training complex in the heart of Gloucestershire.

Maguire, whose career has been blighted by a series of bad falls and injuries, feels he has lost the confidence of the

Lack of peak fitness cost my selection a victory over course and distance a fortnight ago. He should make amends for the in-form Kevin Morgan yard in this moderate race.

The manner in which Maguire has been treated has caused a rift between Nicholson and Smith — two strong-willed men who both believe they have behaved properly — and, unless they manage to reach some kind of accommodation, it seems likely the successful association will be under threat.

Nicholson is a salaried trainer, but his contract has expired recently and has yet to be renewed. It would appear, at best, that Nicholson will train for one more season at Jackdaws Castle, but the present disagreement could conceivably mean this is his final term



Kendal Cavalier jumps the last before holding the determined challenge of Fiddling The Facts in the Welsh National

at one of jump racing's most prestigious training centres. Oliver Sherwood and Charlie Egerton have already been mentioned as possible successors.

Nicholson arrived at Chestow yesterday for the Coral Welsh National and was clearly angered and upset by recent events. "Speak to Mr Smith," he said, somewhat tersely.

The rift did not stop Maguire riding Hunt Hill to victory for Jonjo O'Neill in the Final Junior Hurdle nor finishing third on Forest Ivory for Nicholson in a pulsating re-

newal of the Coral Welsh National. The day's feature race went to Kendal Cavalier whose proven stamina enabled him to thwart Fiddling The Facts, who appeared all the while the winner turning home.

Behind the 14-1 success lay another controversy, for the eight-year-old was moved only a week ago from the yard of Rod Millman to that of Nigel Hawke by Michael Wingfield Digby, the horse's owner.

Kendal Cavalier won four races when with Millman last year, and had been successful when trained previously by Toby Balding.

Wingfield-Digby explained: "We wanted a specialist jump trainer. We moved to Rod because we were very near and he did well, but people get very over-sensitive and touchy about these things. I am a cricketer and if I want to change counties or clubs I have to do it. I am grateful to Rod and Toby and hope they will remain my friends."

Kendal Cavalier has undergone a different routine since moving to Hawke, best known for riding Stawton to victory in the 1991 Grand National. "He has been turned out every day and his family need that to relax," Wingfield-Digby added.

Hawke's big-race success also happened to be his first winner of the season and he was quick to accept that Millman had a large part to play in the victory. "A lot of the credit must go to him," he said. "The further Kendal Cavalier goes the better he goes — and he might be a National horse."

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THUNDERER

12.26 On Co. 12.55 Rovereta. 1.25 Ardina. 1.56 Farcor Du Mesnil. 2.25 My Shanadoch. 2.65 Adamic. 3.25 SUPREME FORTUNE (nap).

GOING: GOOD (7.30AM INSPECTION) SIS

12.25 BUBBLY JOCK MAIDEN HURDLE (OV 1: 22.26; 2m 4) (8 runners)

12.55 BLETHYR JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: 22.65; 2m) (13)

1.25 RUSTY NAIL NOVICES CHASE (23.128; 3m) (6)

1.55 BUBBLY JOCK MAIDEN HURDLE (OV 1: 22.26; 2m 4) (8)

2.25 LARGE DRAM HURDLE (23.090; 3m) (7)

2.55 COL W L M MONTEITH HANDICAP CHASE (24.068; 3m) (4)

3.25 SAIR HEAD STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (11:52; 2m) (12)

3.05 MONKS HEATH NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (23.794; 3m) (13 runners)

3.35 WINSFORD NOVICES HURDLE (22.997; 2m 7 1/2) (10 runners)

THUNDERER

1.15 Avondale Girl. 1.45 Mory's Grab Him. 2.15 Questuary. 2.45 Opera Buff. 3.15 Rayk. 3.45 Elway Prince.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

1.15 GOLF & RACING NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: 22.75; 5f) (6 runners)

1.45 FURLONGS & FAIRWAYS HANDICAP (22.779; 5f) (10)

2.15 TEES & STALLS SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O: 21.737; 1m) (9)

2.45 TOTE HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE) (22.779; 1m 4f) (8)

3.15 SILKS & PLUS FOURS MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: 22.78; 1m 2f) (9)

3.45 WHIPS & WOODS HANDICAP (23.501; 7f) (9)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

UNFIELD: TRAINERS: (Baron) 4 winners from 32 runners, 25.0% D.N.C. 13 winners, 19.1% of 100 runners, 19.1% of 100 runners.

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HAYDOCK PARK THUNDERER 1.05 Beau 2.35 Nearly An Eye 3.05 Peter Echo 3.35 Valgan 1.05 BFF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (22.866; 2m) (11 runners)

1.35 CHELTON NOVICES CHASE (24.879; 2m 4f) (5 runners)

2.05 RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON TELEWEST HANDICAP HURDLE (23.896; 2m 4f) (5 runners)

2.35 HAYDOCK PARK SPONSORSHIP CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (25.086; 2m) (3 runners)

CHANGING TIMES

Stack makes progress

TOMMY STACK'S condition "stabilised" yesterday as the trainer remains in hospital in Co Cork with a viral infection. He was taken into hospital in a serious condition over the weekend.

A spokeswoman at Stack's Thomastown Castle base, in Co Tipperary, said: "The doctors are happy with his progress. There has been some improvement and his condition has stabilised."

Stack, 53, is best remembered for riding Red Rum to a record third success in the Grand National in 1977. He took out a trainers' licence in Ireland in 1986. Highlights since then have included Las Meninas winning the 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket in 1994 and Tarasoon's triumph in this year's Irish 1,000 Guineas.

Stack's progress has been monitored by his wife, Mrs. Stack, who has been at his bedside since he was admitted to hospital. She said: "Tommy is doing well and we are all relieved that he is making progress."

Stack's condition is being monitored by a team of specialists at the hospital. They are hopeful that he will be able to return to his home in Thomastown in the near future.

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Table with columns: COUNTRY, CURRENCY, THREE MONTHS, SIX MONTHS, ONE YEAR. Rows include Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, USA (Europe).

The Times Subscription Form. Fields include Family/Friend's Name, Address, Telephone, and Payment options (Cheque, Visa, Mastercard, Access, AmEx).

3.05 MONKS HEATH NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (23.794; 3m) (13 runners)

3.35 WINSFORD NOVICES HURDLE (22.997; 2m 7 1/2) (10 runners)

COURSE SPECIALISTS Table with columns: TRAINERS, WINS, RNS, %, JOCKEYS, WINS, RNS, %, %. Rows include S. Boulton, N. Treadwell, O. Sheppard, T. Yate.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Musselburgh; 12.55 Prince Minata. 1.55 Donna's Dancer. 2.55 Shanagary. Haydock Park: 3.05 High Thyme, 3.35 Shared Risk. Taunton: 1.50 The In-Laws.

Suave Dancer killed by lightning

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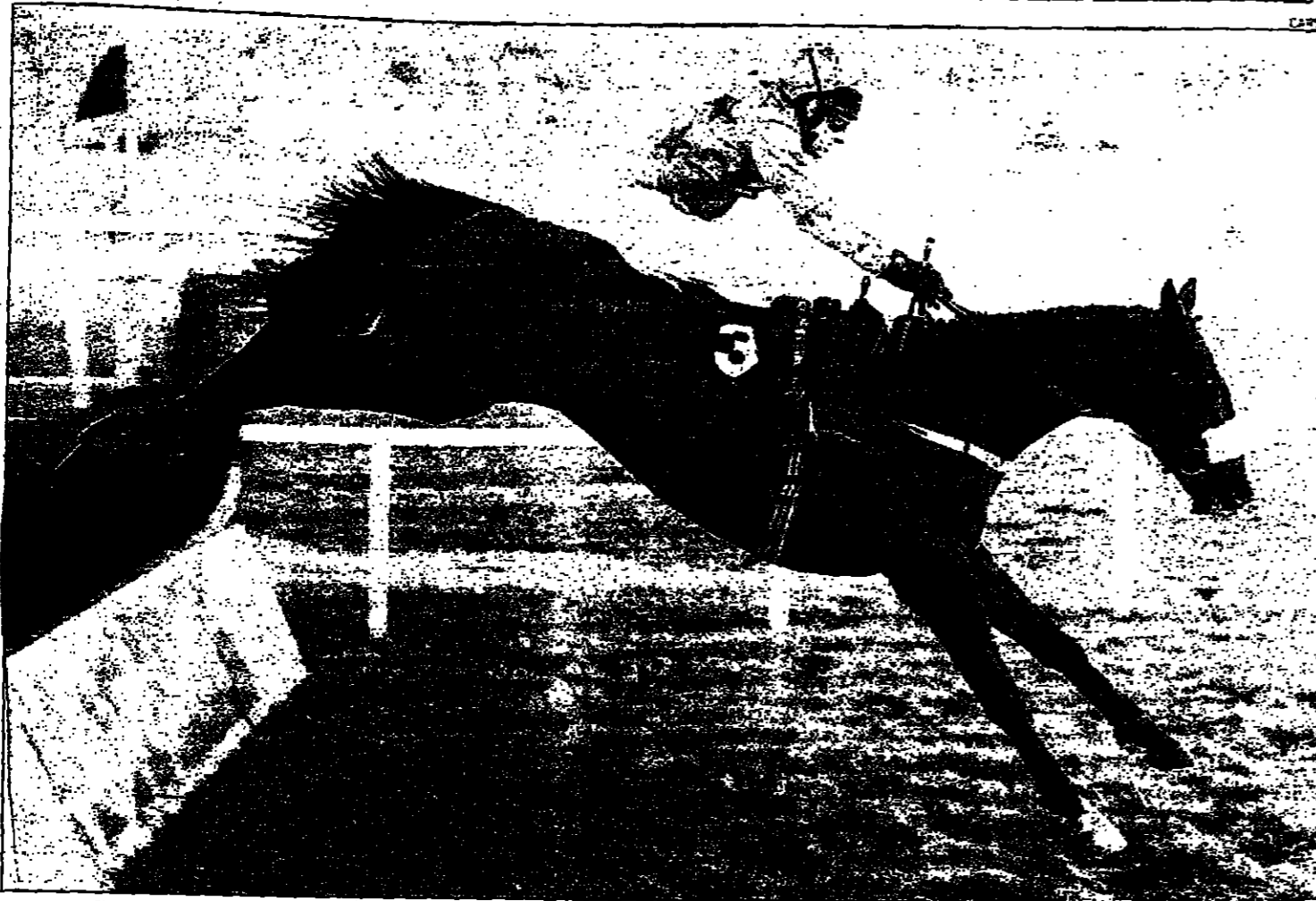
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CHANGING TIMES

RACING: DORANS PRIDE PROFITS FROM FAVOURITE'S FALL TO LAND ERICSSON CHASE



Carberry conjures a fine leap from Dorans Pride at the last on his way to victory in the Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown yesterday

Florida Pearl has costly lapse

FROM CHRIS MCGRATH AT LEOPARDSTOWN
SEVEN thousand Irish homes were left without electricity after the St Stephen's Day gale, but this is a nation that always relies on horsepower. So it was that a record crowd crammed into Leopardstown yesterday, the cockles of 20,071 hearts expecting to be warmed by the return of Florida Pearl to the Ericsson Chase...

Thornton lands four-timer

ANDREW THORNTON soothed his influenza symptoms at Kempton Park yesterday with a dose of four winners, with French Holly's victory in the Pertemps Christmas Hurdle proving the strongest of pick-me-ups. Thornton had staggered back to the weighing-room after winning the opening novice chase on Hoh Express...

TAUNTON

THUNDERER
12.50 Gladiator IV, 1.20 Roccalli, 1.50 Top Skipper, 2.20 Time For Action, 2.50 Minnisam, 3.20 Koo's Promise, 3.50 Kentford Busy B.

12.50 HOLLY TREE NOVICES HURDLE

(£3,575 2m 10) (14 runners)
41 441 POLAR CHAMP 5 (N.W.) M. A. Thornton 58
42 442 THE SWEET 5 (N.W.) M. A. Thornton 58

1.20 IVY NOVICES HANICAP CHASE

(£3,284 2m 30) (14)
151 152 BLADE OF FORTUNE 28 (N.W.) M. A. Thornton 59
153 153 PRESALTY 15 (N.W.) J. George 7:11.9

1.50 HANGOVER SELLING HANICAP HURDLE

(£1,637 2m 10) (11)
271 272 SHADOWMAN 19 (N.W.) C. P. Hannon 59
273 273 THE LAWS 16 (N.W.) M. A. Thornton 59

COURSE SPECIALISTS

THORNTON Jockey A, 8 winners from 21 starts, 30.5%, 11 winners, 5 from 11, 22.2%.
ERICSSON Jockey B, 1 winner from 10 starts, 10%, 1 winner, 1 from 1, 100%.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
It took fair as well as technique to avoid making this slam in the 1998 US Life Masters Pairs. Brian Glubok of New York ruffally informed the Daily Bulletin how his partner Kyle Larsen achieved the feat.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT
Hastings preview
The Hastings Premier, Britain's strongest all-play-all tournament starts tomorrow. Among the most prominent contestants are grandmasters Tony Miles, Jon Speelman, Matthew Sadler and Ruslan Ponomarev...

Table of chess moves and positions for the Hastings Premier tournament, listing players like Miles, Sadler, and Ponomarev.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL: BIRMINGHAM LEAGUE...
BOWLING: AMESBURY 17-1-500...
BOWLS: BLACKPOOL...
CRICKET: SOUTH AFRICA v WEST INDIES...
FOOTBALL: FOOTBALL LEAGUE...
RUGBY UNION: RUGBY UNION...
SNOW REPORTS: SNOW REPORTS...

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scottish Eagles 5 Notingham Panthers 5...
NATIONAL LEAGUE (MHL): Edinburgh 3 Vancouver 0...
JEWELLION LEAGUE: First division...

After a pass from East, North-South bid to Six Hearts with no opposition bidding. East took the first trick with the ace of spades and returned the suit. Any normal player would cross to dummy and finesse the queen of hearts...

WORD-WATCHING

MERKARST a. Scapure
b. Diacet rhythm
c. Sozery
NOBING a. Ritual naming
b. Iron treatment
c. Ornamentation

WINNING MOVE

By RAYMOND KEENE
Black to play. This position is from the game Matic-Anakhtmia, Hastings 1995. It seems as if White has forced a decisive breakthrough to the seventh rank. How did Black prove that this is not the case?

SNOW REPORTS

Table with columns: Location, Depth (cm), Conditions, Runs to Resort, Off/p, Weather (Wind/Temp), Last snow.

Law Report December 29 1998 Court of Appeal

Life sentence for second serious offence automatic

Regina v Kelly
Regina v Sandford
Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Forbes and Mr Justice Harrison

1 Dismissing an appeal by Edward Kelly from a sentence of life imprisonment imposed on him by Judge Fabyan sitting at the Central Criminal Court, on conviction of the Offences against the Person Act 1861;
2 Granting leave to the Attorney-General to refer a sentence imposed on Terence Sandford under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 to the court on the ground that the determinate sentence of eight years imprisonment imposed on him by Mr Recorder Tudor Owen, sitting at Southwark Crown Court, on conviction, inter alia, of an offence contrary to section 18 of the 1861 Act was unduly lenient. The court quashed the eight year term and substituted a life sentence under section 2(2)(b) of the Act.

fender institution: he had numerous other convictions for various offences including those of violence. Mr William Clegg, QC and Mr James Sturman, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Kelly; Mr David Perry as amicus curiae; Mr David Perry for the Attorney-General; Mr Dorian Lovell-Park, QC, for Sandford.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the two cases had been heard together since a common point on the construction and application of section 2 of the 1997 Act arose. In addition to presenting his own oral argument, Mr Lovell-Park had adopted that advanced by Mr Clegg.

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NHS has duty to provide care

Regina v North and East Devon Health Authority, Ex parte Coughlan
Before Mr Justice Hadden
[Judgment December 11]
The statutory responsibility to provide health care services, which included the provision of general and specialist nursing care, was the responsibility of the National Health Service, and not social services.

authority was wrong in law to assume that the law had changed, and that it was no longer entitled to arrange long term residential care in an NHS setting and/or that there had been a transfer to social services departments of such responsibilities.

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Trial judge granted leave to appeal

Regina v Bansal
As a matter of general principle, the grant of leave to appeal against conviction to the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, was exercised ordinarily by members of the court, who might be a single judge or the full court itself.

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Protecting costs while disputing liability

Hobin v Douglas
Before Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Schiemann
[Judgment December 3]
A defendant wishing to protect himself as to costs on a hearing for assessment of damages who was unable to make a realistic payment into court because to do so would leave her a chance to appeal the judge's findings on causation, could make an offer to agree damages which the judge would have to take into account in exercising his discretion when making a costs order.

As a matter of general principle, the grant of leave to appeal against conviction to the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, was exercised ordinarily by members of the court, who might be a single judge or the full court itself.

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Judge erred over child's name change

In re S (a Minor) (Change of surname)
Before Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Mummery
[Judgment December 15]
In determining an application by a competent child in the care of a local authority, the welfare principle must be paramount. In addition, a judge should give careful consideration to the wishes, feelings and needs of the applicant, showing particular regard to any advice from a guardian ad litem and should give searching scrutiny to the motives and objectives of a party opposing the application.

As a matter of general principle, the grant of leave to appeal against conviction to the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, was exercised ordinarily by members of the court, who might be a single judge or the full court itself.

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Vehicle service is supply of goods to car owner

Formula One Autocentres Ltd v Birmingham City Council
Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Mitchell
[Judgment November 27]
When a motor vehicle which had been deposited by a person with a garage for the purposes of having it serviced was returned by the garage to that person, it was supplied to him for the purposes of section 1(1)(a) and (b) of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968.

As a matter of general principle, the grant of leave to appeal against conviction to the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, was exercised ordinarily by members of the court, who might be a single judge or the full court itself.

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# LAW

## From far-reaching to far-out

By any standards, 1998 was a vintage year for award-winning oddities in the legal world

The most extraordinary legal events of 1998 concerned the trials of Bill Clinton. His legal problems provide the background to many of the award-winning incidents in this annual review of the legal year.

The legal submission of the year has to be that of Robert Bennett, counsel to the President, in response to claims by Paula Jones that she could give evidence about "distinguishing characteristics" she had noticed when the President allegedly exposed himself to her. Mr Bennett announced that "in terms of size, shape, direction, whatever the devious mind wants to concoct, the President is a normal man". The President was witness of the year, telling the grand jury that the accuracy of an earlier statement "depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is".

Zealous prosecutor of the year - any year - was Kenneth Starr, whose report into the President's wrongdoing (Footnote 162: "Earlier in the evening, Ms Monica Lewinsky had removed her underwear") told America more than it wanted to know. Poorest legal advice of 1998 was that given by William ("I'm the most famous person in the world") Ginsburg to his client, Monica Lewinsky: that she should undertake a photo session with a magazine on Malibu Beach to help her to "get in touch with her imprisoned libido".

In 1998, as in all previous years, there were many nominations for worst judge. In Long Beach, California, Judge Joan Comarret-Casini ordered a bailiff to administer a 50,000-volt shock from a stun belt to a prisoner in her courtroom as punishment for interrupting proceedings. In Washington state, Judge Ralph Baldwin resigned after the judicial board brought charges against him for inviting the jury and lawyers in a drink-driving case "to stay for a cold one" at the end of the proceedings, then telling them he was going to drive home.

Here, Mr Justice Harman resigned after the Court of Appeal criticised him for taking 20 months to deliver a judgment. The winner, however, is Judge Richard Deacon Jones of Omaha, Nebraska, who admitted disciplinary charges that he had signed court papers with the name Adolf Hitler, thrown litigated fireworks into a colleague's office ("I was venting"), and set bail bonds for "a zillion dollars".

The judicial question of 1998 was the inquiry by Mr Justice Poppelwell to Linford Christie during the athletic evidence in his successful libel action against false allegations of drug-taking. "What is Linford Christie's lunchbox?"

Mr Christie explained that it was "a reference [by journalists] to my genitals".

Difficult client of the past 12 months was Geoffrey Boycott, convicted in France of assaulting a former girlfriend. During a long day's play in Grasse, he told court officials to "shut up" so he could speak and complained that "Everybody's talking French". There were many nominations for juror of the year. At Lewes Crown Court, the fire brigade had to be called to remove the handcuffs (an exhibit in the case) that the jury foreman had tried on. In Canada,

a woman was convicted of obstructing justice by having a love affair with a man on trial for murder while she was serving on the jury that acquitted him. At Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court, a man was excluded from the jury after asking the judge to tell him the date of birth of the defendant so that he could draw up an astrological chart to help him to decide on guilt or innocence. But the winner of the award is a jury in Jasper, Georgia, which issued a statement explaining why it had refused to give a verdict in the case of a man charged with disorderly conduct for calling a tax assessor a liar. "We strongly feel that all parties involved in this case should be sent to bed without supper and not allowed to watch television for a week."

The House of Lords decided, 3-2, that General Augusto Pinochet of Chile was not entitled to immunity from extradition to Spain. The general then successfully applied for a rehearing on the ground that there was the appearance of bias by Lord Hoffmann, one of the law lords in the majority, who had failed to declare his links with Amnesty International, a party to the appeal. The importance of justice being seen to be done was recognised at Warwick Crown Court, where a judge stopped a trial after discovering that the defendant was his milkman.

Other important cases included the Court of Appeal judgment dismissing the appeal by Myra Hindley against the decision of Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, that she should remain in prison for the rest of her life. The European Court of Justice decided that sex discrimination law does not prohibit less favourable treatment of homosexuals and lesbians. The European Court of Human Rights ruled that English law does not violate transsexuals' rights. It also awarded £10,000 compensation to a boy viciously caned by his stepfather.

There are three awards this year for selfless devotion to judicial duty. In Birmingham County Court, Judge Anthony Cleary rejected the complaints of disappointed holiday-makers about the standards at their Malta hotel, after the judge had adjourned the case to enable him to fly to Malta to see the hotel for himself. At Truro Crown Court jurors in a rape trial were sent home early so that they could watch the opening match in the World Cup finals, the judge expressing concern that otherwise it might be "unfair" to the defendant because of the risk that the jury might rush their deliberations. Similarly, at Southwark Crown Court, on the afternoon when England played their first match in the tournament, the judge sent home at lunchtime a jury considering verdicts in a fraud case, explaining: "I expect your minds are on football."

Because of the unfair conduct of Lord Chief Justice Goff at a trial in 1993, the Court of Appeal (presided over by Lord Chief Justice Bingham of Cornhill) allowed an appeal brought by relatives of Derek Bentley, who was hanged after his conviction for murder. After another miscarriage of justice, the Court of Appeal freed Deirdre Rachid of Coronation Street, Weatherfield, from a prison sentence imposed for a fraud she had not committed. Statements of support for Mrs Rachid were made by Tony Blair, William Hague and "Mad" Frankie Fraser, who told *The Sun* that "everyone in Britain is hoping Deirdre gets out".



On the legal merry-go-round (clockwise, from top left): Monica Lewinsky; Coronation Street's Deirdre Rachid celebrates freedom; Linford Christie clears up a mystery; Mr Justice Harman; Brigitte Bardot rushes to Woolfie's aid; Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor; Richard Branson; Rupert Allason; Myra Hindley; and President Clinton

to run the National Lottery. Unfortunate defendant of 1998 was Immigration, a dog sentenced to death by a magistrate in Tanzania because it bore the name of "a respected government department". There was a better result for Woolfie, when two Scottish judges lifted a death sentence imposed under the Dangerous Dogs Act for chasing and barking at a postman. One of the dog's supporters in court, Brigitte Bardot, said that she was "so happy", adding: "Thank you for justice."

Each year there is hot competition for the award of unpromising lawsuit of the previous 12 months. In 1998 mention must be made of the man claiming to be the illegitimate son of Edward VIII who lost his battle at Portsmouth County Court to challenge the Queen for the ownership of Balmoral and Sandringham.

Rejecting a complaint by a car dealer who bought a rural large house that his neighbouring farmer made too much mess, Judge Victor Hall in Leicester County Court explained that, in the countryside, "mud is inevitable". In Minnesota, a judge ruled that a student could not sue her former boyfriend for the cost of her dress after he cancelled their date.

But this award, like so many others this year, goes to litigation involving Bill Clinton. The mayor of a Jordanian village sued the President for \$3 million for calling his dog Buddy. Shelk Badi, pronounced "buddy", claimed psychological distress and loss of earnings because locals were calling him "Clinton's dog". The President's lawyers have, no doubt, given the President the good news that this is one legal battle he can be optimistic about winning in 1999. The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Other events in the criminal justice system included the Attorney-General's decision not to pursue fraud allegations against Judge Richard Gee because of the defendant's ill-health; the right spent in Brixton prison by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, and Lady Wood (and other persons of good character) for charity; and the appointment of David Calvert-Smith, QC, as the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, was allowed by the House of Lords to discard his breeches, tights and buckled shoes, except on ceremonial occasions. Legal dress posed unusual problems at Bristol Crown Court, where a judge decided that he, the lawyers, clerks and ushers should remove their wigs and gowns because a defendant had a phobia about uniforms.

The libel courts provided their customary entertainment this year. The Court of Appeal held that the opera singer Jessye Norman could not seriously suggest that *Classic CD* magazine had defamed her by reporting her as saying, when trapped in revolving doors and advised to turn sideways: "Honey, I ain't got no sideways".

The spy-novel writer and former Tory MP, Rupert Allason, lost his claim for libel against a book version of the TV programme *Have I Got News For You* for calling him "a conniving little shit". A libel jury accepted that Richard Branson had told the truth in stating that GTEch's Guy Snowden had offered a bribe to deter Mr Branson from competing

### MERRY CHRISTMAS & A PROSPEROUS NEW JOB

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY** To £44,000  
Ambitious commercial property lawyers with 0-2 years' exp may be much in demand in the City, but there is little competition when it comes to this leading name, widely recognised as having one of the very best property practices around. A spell at this friendly firm will set you up for life. Ref T15482

**SENIOR TAX** Minimum £63,000  
The well-known medium-sized City firm boasts a highly unusual and desirable tax team, using a value driven, not a services department, as well as one of the firm's core practice areas. A senior assistant with 5+ years' exp will be involved in exceptional corporate or private capital work. Ref T16088

**EMPLOYMENT** To £44,000  
While the trendy London office of the top Scottish firm is relatively small, it benefits from the considerable presence of the firm as a whole, and so offers employment lawyers with 0-3 years' experience and non-controversial exp the chance to work closely with some of the biggest clients around. Ref T16088

**EMPLOYEE SHARE SCHEME** To £25,000  
Whether you have experience of employee share schemes work, or want to gain some, a 0-3 years qualified lawyer could not do better than this top 5 City firm, which is renowned for training and rewarding its lawyers properly. Its thriving team is the ideal place to learn every aspect of the field. Ref T16088

**IP/IT** To £75,000  
This top 5 City firm's IP/IT team is a top of the range model, a powerful machine that attracts only the best, both lawyers and clients. Put your career into overdrive here if you have 3-5 years' exp and are either a contentious or non-contentious IP or IT lawyer, or have experience of both areas. Ref T40858

**MEDIA** To £100,000  
This leading niche London firm is what media law should be all about: a relaxed working environment, highly professional and commercial advice, famous clients and an awful lot of fun. A media lawyer with 4+ years' exp will enjoy a high-profile mix of music, video, TV and film work. Ref T16081

**INSOLVENCY** To £200,000+  
The London office of this major national firm makes a uniquely attractive proposition for senior insolvency lawyers. While the office is small enough to give you freedom to develop your practice as you want, you will benefit from the heavyweight corporate practice the firm boasts nationwide. Ref T16040

**COMMERCIAL LITIGATION** To £45,000  
This niche West End law firm may be small, but it competes and often beats the big boys. It works a commercial litigator with 1-4 years' exp who would relish that kind of challenge. Work includes IP, insolvency, inland revenue and SFO investigations, and company director disqualifications. Ref T16040

**CORPORATE** To £250,000  
The smaller City firm punches well above its weight and has a reputation that many larger firms would be jealous of. The particular appeal for a company/commercial lawyer with 3+ years' exp and a following of some sort is the freedom you will enjoy to build your practice and become a partner. Ref T44288

**CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL** To £55,000  
With Spain and Latin America becoming increasingly important markets, this unique top 10 City firm offers an outstanding future to either corporate/commercial lawyers with excellent language skills, or Spanish lawyers who have qualified. Your expertise should guarantee rapid promotion. Ref T160305

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact:  
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### QUEEN'S COUNSEL

Stuart & Francis







Romano Prodi, left, the Italian Prime Minister, greets David Bell, whose responsibilities have widened since the launch of the FT print site in Milan this year

# The director charged with winning the war for talent

When David Bell, the man in charge of all Pearson's information businesses, including the Financial Times, unexpectedly became Pearson's director of people in the summer, the questions started almost immediately. What is a "director for people"? Is it just a new fancy name for "head of human resources"? And more pointedly, some in the media business began to wonder what Bell had done to upset Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's chief executive, to be so comprehensively moved sideways in the organisation.

## Raymond Snoddy explores the challenges that face David Bell as he aims to prove that people matter

greater American companies were finding it more difficult to attract and retain the sort of people who could run divisions. Bell is probably the first director for people — not of course director of people — in the UK, although wisely he does not claim such pre-eminence. One of the first things he learnt as a young journalist was to be wary of claiming anything is unique, or the first, or the largest because it is rarely so. But the only other director for people that Bell has found is at Southwest Airlines in the US, which just happens to be one of the most highly regarded companies in America.

the FT already has a graduate training scheme for journalists, started, as it happens, by Bell. From January 2000 every Pearson operating company will have its own graduate training scheme with particular emphasis on the commercial rather than the editorial side. The graduates will spend most of their 15 months in their own divisions but will also meet on a Pearson-wide basis.

three groups of people he believes are important for the future. The first are the 120 people already running the group. Then there are, he says, the people Marks & Spencer calls "the bubble-under group" — those who will run it in future. Equally important are those who recently joined the business who are the real future. "We want to work very hard with all three groups, developing a much better understanding of the business," said Bell.

and 75 per cent at M&S. "We have got some way to go," Bell conceded. Apart from encouraging more staff to have stakes in the business, developing careers across the group and improving training, Bell believes that the way Pearson is managed also has to change. In a "brains and ideas" business the sort of people the company wants want to be led rather than managed and given the chance to agree rather than be controlled. They do not even like being called employees.

# EMU will provide motorists with a level playing field

Matthew Barbour talks to the car dealer who believes the euro will benefit buyers and shake up the industry

Derek Cook has the air of a man without a worry in the world. As chairman of DC Cook, the motor dealership group, Cook's confidence may surprise those who know the company's predicament — water-thin margins, disappointing profits blamed on "ill-timed expansion" and a growing "parallel market" of cheaper European imports eating into UK sales.

## The Euro and me

Parallel imports of new cars from Europe account for only 15,000 sales a year. However, with prices at anything up to 30 per cent cheaper, British consumers are putting increasing pressure on car dealers and, in turn, car manufacturers to change. Cook argues that the main effect of the euro will be to make European markets coordinate policy regulating the car industry.

He envisages a scenario where dealers would be able to offer a whole range of makes, models and services all under one roof. At present, Cook says, the effort required to order a specific car from abroad, pay a sizeable deposit, sort out all the paperwork and wait months for a right-hand drive model is too great to make what he describes as the "marginal" discounts worthwhile.

"The story of cheaper imports from the Continent has been blown out of all proportion by the press," he said. However, he does admit that there is a certain amount of truth to that story. "Whatever the problems, it's the future we're looking to, and Europe is central to that."

"The introduction of a single currency will make price comparison a more transparent affair. It will become obvious that cars in Germany, say, are cheaper than here because consumers' minds will start to work automatically in two currencies."

## 'Unlike most other markets, the car industry is manipulated to benefit the manufacturers'

Cook believes that his business, which with 15 new dealerships added during the past year has almost doubled, is poised to take advantage of what he feels will be a much more lucrative market. "Car dealers have had a tough time of it in the past, but expansion is the name of the game. The introduction of the euro is exactly what we need to give the outdated car market a much-needed shake-up."

"Car buyers have a lot to look forward to." Cook believes that his business, which with 15 new dealerships added during the past year has almost doubled, is poised to take advantage of what he feels will be a much more lucrative market.

Table with multiple columns listing various companies and their financial data, including names like AGP, A&P, and various financial metrics.

# Saudis boost investor hopes

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN RIYADH

SAUDI ARABIA said yesterday that it would welcome "serious" proposals for foreign firms to invest in the kingdom's vast energy sector. The comments — which were made by Ali al-Naimi, the Saudi Oil Minister — have raised hopes that the kingdom's vast upstream assets may be opened up to foreign investment for the first time.

Earlier this month Chevron, the American group, said that it had presented Saudi Arabia with proposals for investing in the energy sector, expressing interest in the oil and gas sectors. Chevron officials have declined to comment on whether the company is interested in downstream projects or the heart of the Saudi energy industry — exploring for and producing oil and gas.

# Merokarst

(a) A term first used by Crisp in 1925 to indicate non-classical or imperfectly developed limestone scenery. It usually refers to karst regions which consist of detrital limestone which has retarded the development of classical karst features.

# Nobbing

(b) The operation of hammering and squeezing by which sinter and other impurities are removed from a bloom of wrought iron and metal solidly welded together.

# Tugrik

(c) The main monetary unit and also the principal coin of Mongolia, equal to 100 Mungo. Tugriks were first struck in Leningrad in 1925 as silver pieces. The name is derived from Durgh-Rik, a wheel or round object.

# Bitterling

(c) A small fish inhabiting the waters of northern Europe, the Baltic, and the Black and Caspian Seas. It prefers still water, the lower reaches of rivers with a soft, sandy bottom, and also stagnant water where there are no predators. The males have beautiful markings. The females lay their eggs inside the shells of swan mussels.

# BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

Advertisement for CCTV Franchise. Text: 'What could give me the potential to earn in excess of £50K p.a. for an outlay of only £7,500 + vat? The Quantumatic CCTV Franchise...'

Advertisement for Quantumatic Ltd. Text: 'Tel 01392 272526. Quantumatic Ltd. Phone now for more information!'

Advertisement for Access Interiors. Text: 'Office Refurbishment Specialist in Cambridge. Including relocatable partitions, suspended ceilings, lighting, decorating, carpets, mezzanine floors...'

Advertisement for Lawrite. Text: 'Employers - protect your business! An unfair dismissal or discrimination claim against you can cost £2000 - protect your business with written contracts of employment...'

Advertisement for Business Opportunities. Text: 'ABSOLUTELY genuine... Business Opportunities...'

Advertisement for PM Stinking Rich. Text: 'Working Smart Instead Of Hard Has Given Me Ferraris, Rolls & Big Homes...'

Advertisement for Entertainment Network (UK). Text: 'BE YOUR OWN BOSS! Earn £50,000+ pa with UK's most successful ENTERTAINMENT AGENCY FRANCHISE...'

Advertisement for UK Local/National. Text: 'No catches, No gimmicks, No commitments. Start with just £25. All Rates are... £5 FREE CALLS...'

American engineers shed jobs

UP TO 2,000 job losses were announced yesterday by two American engineering companies.

About 1,000 jobs at the former General Signal Corp. in Connecticut and at other sites, will be eliminated by its new owner, SPX, the auto supplier. SPX said that the redundancies, arising from closure of 25 General Signal plants, will result in a fourth-quarter charge of up to \$250 million (£150 million) and additional costs of about \$20 million in 1999.

Cooper Industries, a maker of electrical parts and industrial tools, is to shut more than a dozen plants with the loss of 1,000 jobs worldwide over 18 months. Cooper, based in Houston, plans to shift some work from existing plants to Mexico to cut costs. Cooper expects the cost of cutbacks to be offset by an increase in earnings in the fourth quarter.

Isuzu cutbacks

Isuzu Motors, the Japanese truckmaker that is an affiliate of General Motors of the US, is to cut 4,000 jobs, about a tenth of its workforce, by March 2001. Isuzu said: "The economic conditions we face remain very severe, and we must strengthen our financial base further and implement restructuring measures." The company also intends to shrink its debt by \$300 billion (£1.6 billion) by selling assets and reducing its stockpile.

Isuzu, which incurred a loss in its half year to September 30, hopes to earn a profit of ¥10 billion in the year to March 31, 2001.

Chain takes euro Carrefour, the French retailer, said its shops would accept payment in euros by bank card or cheque from January 4. Carrefour already uses a preliminary exchange rate to indicate the total value in euros of a customer's purchases. It will start double-pricing of goods in February. Its hypermarkets with petrol stations will show fuel prices in both currencies from March.

Insurers fear impending crisis as storms threaten profitability

By MARIANNE CURPHEY INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

STORMS that hit Northern Ireland and Scotland over the weekend could cost more than £100 million and will make 1998 one of the worst years of profitability for Britain's insurance companies.

By the end of the year, the industry will have paid out nearly £1 billion in household insurance claims. The Association of British Insurers gave warning yesterday of premium rises in both motor and household rates if the bad weather continued throughout the winter.

Insurers are already struggling with claims over the past 12 months, which included record rainfall and flooding in April, storms in October, and rising subsidence claims in the summer.

In addition, fierce competition in the market has kept premiums low at a time when insurers needed to increase their rates to maintain their profit margins. Because of their large reserves, insurers are also particularly vulnerable to a downturn in the equity markets.

Those insurers with exposure to weather catastrophes



Premiums may rise if bad weather continues to cause damage to property, such as caravans on this site in Northumberland

overseas have also had to cope with the devastation caused by hurricane Georges. Royal & SunAlliance, the UK composite, was hit by a £60 million

bill as a result of that hurricane. As the clearing up in Scotland and Northern Ireland continued yesterday, the Meteorological Office gave

warning of more gale force winds in westerly parts of the country. Loss adjusters claim this could cause tens of millions of pounds more damage.

A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers acknowledged that the industry was facing a catalogue of rising claims. He said that the

Easter flooding, the worst for 20 years in South Wales, cost £137 million, while the final bill for the October storms this year had come to £100 million. He said: "Insurers brace themselves for bad weather at this time of year, but they have paid out quite a lot in claims already and if the storms continue, then this is bound to have an effect on premium rates."

This time last year the storms and flooding that hit Britain between December 1997 and January 1998 cost insurers £270 million.

This figure pales, however, beside the £2 billion cost of the storms in January and February 1990 and the £2.5 billion bill caused in just 24 hours by the hurricanes in the South and South East of England in October 1987.

The spokesman for the ABI said: "People do tend to have short memories when it comes to bad weather. In 1963 flooding on the East Anglian coast killed 300 people, while the winter of 1963 was particularly severe."

A recent report by the ABI revealed that the average household spends £125 on insuring each year, including building and contents, motor, life insurance and personal pensions.

Philips trims US stake

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN AMSTERDAM

PHILIPS, the Dutch consumer electronics company, yesterday continued its shedding of underperforming businesses by forming a partnership with its stake in Navigation Technology.

Philips has cut its stake in NavTech, a US car guidance technology company, from 60 per cent to 40 per cent, selling shares to a financial consortium including ABN Amro, the Dutch bank and other Dutch financial institutions. Sale terms were not disclosed.

NavTech, a supplier of continuously updated route guidance databases, is estimated to have made losses of up to £70 million a year, mainly linked to research and start-up costs.

Philips is conducting a clearance after a 1996 pledge by Cor Boonstra, the chief executive, to root out loss-makers from its wide portfolio of investments in consumer electronics. Recent disposals have included PolyGram, the record company sold to Seagram, and Philips Car Sales.

Ministers to revamp compulsory purchase

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MOVES TO ease planning blight by streamlining compulsory purchase operations will be set out by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions next week.

The Government will publish an interim report reviewing the laws and procedure of compulsory purchase after a series of complaints from developers, landowners and local authorities.

Planning blight has hit some areas because of uncertainty over large infrastructure projects — such as the Channel Tunnel rail link — and also because of the slow-



Caborn: review of law

ness of compulsory purchase procedures. Richard Caborn, Minister for Planning and the Regions,

said: "That the current system does not deliver satisfaction is beyond question. The review has made substantial headway in getting the measure of the century-and-a-half aggregation of laws and procedures and isolating those areas where changes to the law would work to the general public good."

The review concludes that the legal framework is sound, but that its operation needs to be sharper and that councils need to work to the same systems. A manual for public guidance is to be produced to make the process more transparent.

A large financial table with multiple columns containing stock market data, including company names, prices, and percentages. The table is organized into several sections, likely representing different market indices or sectors.

A promotional advertisement for 'FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS'. It features a repeating text pattern: 'I must collect the Books for Schools tokens'. At the bottom, it says 'There are millions of free books for schools to be given away. Start collecting tokens in The Times from January 4th 1999. School teachers can call 0171 481 3388 for an information pack.' The Times logo is also present.

# France poised to relinquish Thomson stake

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE French Government appears ready to relinquish its stake in Thomson-CSF to ensure the country's flagship defence electronics group is not excluded from a merger with GEC or British Aerospace.

Denis Ranque, chairman of Thomson-CSF, said France's Socialist Government would reduce its shareholding from 40 per cent at present to below 10 per cent if this ensured the company would not be excluded from a merger.

There are growing fears in France that state ownership of Thomson-CSF will be a large obstacle that prevents the company from participating in the wide-ranging restructuring of Europe's defence industry that is now under way.

# M&S sued by German china maker

BY FRASER NELSON

MARKS & SPENCER is being sued by a German maker of luxury china that alleges the UK retailer is selling cheap copies of its best-selling range of ceramic tableware.

years, said: "There is a difference between following fashion and copying someone else's ideas. We have got to take action to protect the brand name."

Hutschenreuther, which sells its £11.95-a-plate range through Harrods and House of Fraser, contends that M&S has copied its Madley range of teapots, plates, cups and saucers.

M&S has denied the allegations and intends to fight the writ.

It has issued a High Court writ demanding that M&S hands over all its Blackberry range and pays damages.

Both Madley and Blackberry are sets of china ceramics, but are not exactly identical in design.

Hutschenreuther, which has been trading under its own name in the UK for 50

years, said: "There is a difference between following fashion and copying someone else's ideas. We have got to take action to protect the brand name."

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Hutschenreuther, which has been trading under its own name in the UK for 50



The Government said Hong Kong's slack export performance in November was mainly the result of a plunge in import demand in Japan

HONG KONG'S exports fell 9.3 per cent year-on-year to HK\$13.1 billion (about £8.7 billion) in November as demand in key east Asian markets remained weak, official data showed yesterday (a Correspondent writes).

# Hong Kong exports drop

of total exports fell by 17.5 per cent.

The November data marked an improvement from the previous month, when the val-

But more recently exports to other markets such as America and the European Union were affected by a moderation in their import demand, he said.

Exports to the mainland

recorded. This was much smaller than the deficit of HK\$45.8 billion in the same period in 1997.

The narrowing in the visible trade deficit in 1998 reflected an adjustment in domestic demand after the regional financial turmoil, which led to a marked decline in imports retained for local use.

# UK chip plants in doubt

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

UNCERTAINTY about the future of two UK computer chip plants is set to continue into 1999 after the two South Korean electronics companies that own the sites failed to reach agreement over a merger.

The plants had been expected to create 3,000 jobs between them, but the developments fell foul of the Asian economic crisis. In September the two companies agreed to merge their chip-making businesses as a part of a wider overhaul of South Korea's leading conglomerates. The future of the two plants was left uncertain pending completion of the merger plans.

The chip company LG Semicon has delayed completion of its plant at Newport in South Wales. Last year another South Korean company, Hyundai, postponed plans to build its own chip plant at Dunfermline.

But the deal has foundered

# Government cash to boost green energy

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

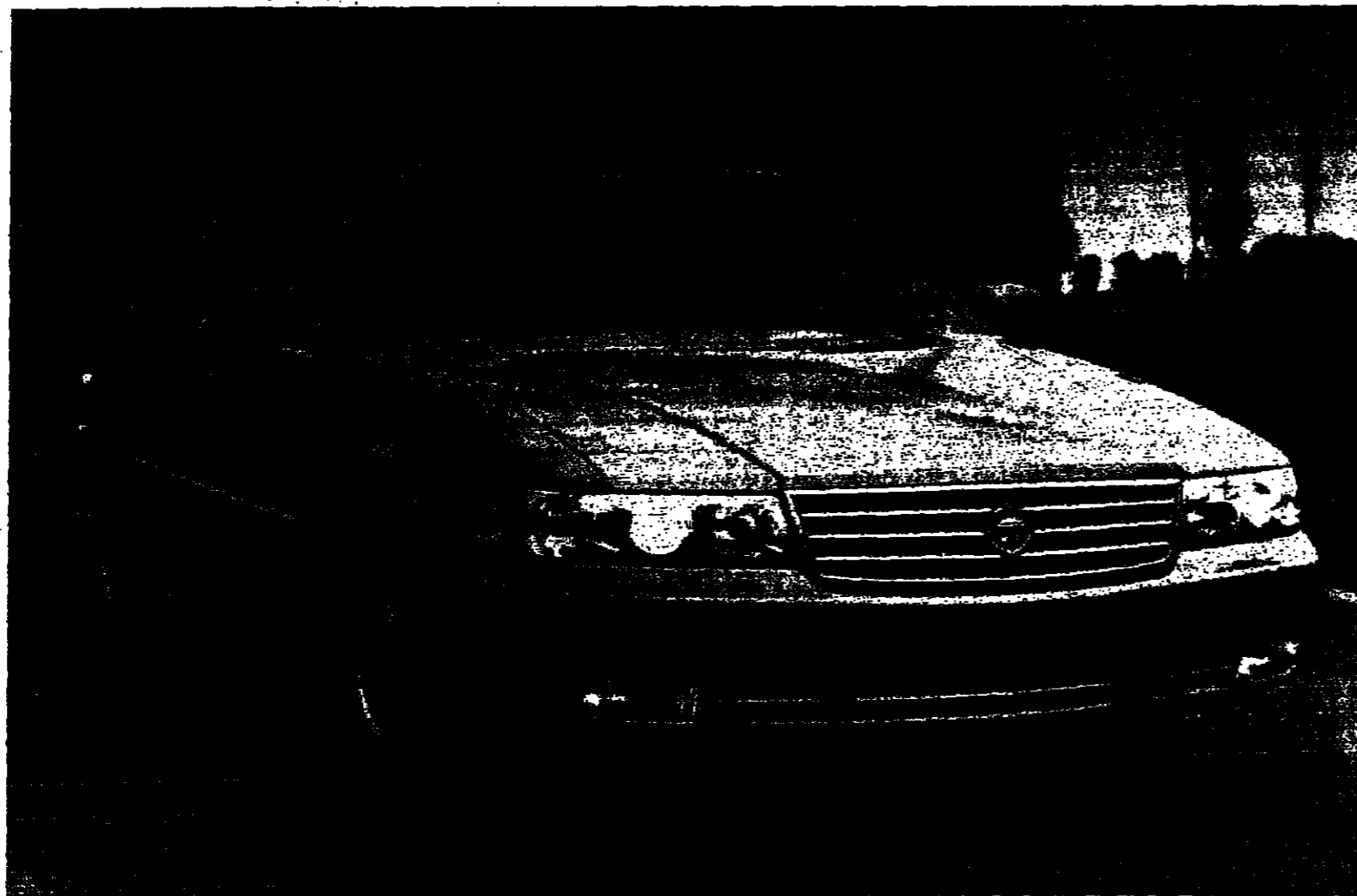
THE Government will next month set out plans to boost green energy with cash from the Department of Trade and Industry to help research into power from renewable sources.

of power is generated by green sources by 2010. A target of 5 per cent by 2005 is expected to be achieved.

However a DTI consultation paper will also highlight the costs of renewable forms of energy and could throw into doubt the Government's target of ensuring that 10 per cent

The paper will be the Government's first statement on environmentally friendly power. It is expected to continue the obligation on regional electricity companies to develop green power, but will provide them with a subsidy to do so.

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# BUSINESS

**DAMAGE 36**  
Bad weather blows ill wind for insurers



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY DECEMBER 29 1998

## OFT advises against signing cash up-front contracts

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM  
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

THE Office of Fair Trading is advising consumers not to sign contracts that require them to hand over all or most of the cost of any home improvement work in advance.

standard contracts, and said it expects other companies to remove similar terms.

LimeLight has agreed to drop the term from its standard contracts by the end of February, John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, said he was ready to take LimeLight to court over the issue, but the company gave its undertaking to change its terms before proceedings were issued. "If they do

not do this voluntarily I will seek a court injunction to have unfair terms removed from standard contracts," he said.

LimeLight, which is based in Surrey, is the holding company for Dolphin Showers, Moben Kitchens and Portland Conservatories. "I consider that home improvement contracts which require all or most of the payment before work has been carried out are unfair,"

Mr Bridgeman said. "Consumers need to be aware of the advantage to them of keeping back a significant part of the cost of home improvements until the work is satisfactorily completed."

Advance payments offer significant advantages to the suppliers of home improvements as they provide steady and reliable cashflow. However, regulations governing unfair terms in consumer con-

tracts, brought in three years ago, say such payments tip the balance of fairness too far in favour of the business as they limit the rights of the consumer "in the event of total or partial non-performance or inadequate performance".

Mr Bridgeman said: "Now LimeLight is to drop its standard full-payment term, it will have to negotiate the staging of payments with individual customers. The company

may no longer routinely demand full or nearly full payment in advance either in writing or verbally."

He added: "My advice to anyone dealing with home improvement companies is to refuse to sign a contract requiring all, or nearly all, the money to be paid before the work has been satisfactorily completed."

He also suggested that any consumers who find a home improvement company insisting on full or

nearly full payment should contact their local trading standards department.

The OFT action ends a difficult year for LimeLight, whose founder, Stephen Boler, died last month. The company reported a £12.28 million loss for the past financial year and has seen its shares hit an all-time low of 20p, compared with a high of 200p seen in 1997 soon after flotation.

## Dow poised to end year at new high

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE Dow Jones industrial average is on course for a record high at the year end after gaining an extraordinary 17 per cent year-on-year so far.

The pre-Christmas boom on Wall Street, which has been dubbed the "Santa Claus rally", continued yesterday, fuelled by the craze for Internet shares.

The Dow rose 43 points to 9,261 in afternoon trading, bringing it within 1 per cent of its all-time high of 9,330. The record was set in late November when the market staged its remarkable turnaround after a plunge in the early autumn.

European markets also rose yesterday, with Germany's benchmark DAX index closing 2 per cent higher and Milan up 3 per cent. Trading volumes were light as many dealers steered clear in the run-up to the launch of the euro on Friday.

Trading was also thin in New York after the holiday weekend, but that did not spoil the party atmosphere that exists on Wall Street.

According to a year-end survey by America's Securities Industry Association published yesterday, brokers have

enjoyed a blockbuster year. Spurred on by three cuts in interest rates by the Federal Reserve and long-term bond rates that have dipped below 5 per cent, corporate underwriting raised a record \$1.85 trillion (£1.1 trillion), 42 per cent more than 1997's \$1.29 trillion. Corporate debt accounted for \$1.7 trillion of this, 47 per cent above last year's record \$1.14 trillion.

Flotations have also rebounded after the shock of the cancellation of the \$30 billion offering by Goldman Sachs. Equity underwriting raised \$155 billion, compared with the previous record of \$152.5 billion set in 1996 and \$150 billion in 1997.

James Spellman, a director of the Securities Industry Association, said: "The Federal Reserve's rate cuts helped spur the markets back into record territory."

The "Santa Claus rally" is expected to continue into the new year. Robert Robbins, a stock market strategist at Robinson Humphrey, said: "This is the most significant rally time of the year."

The Dow rose 3.5 per cent in the week before Christmas and has gained a total of 10

per cent so far this month. According to Mr Robbins, the rally is likely to continue for technical reasons. Fund managers do not want to have large cash positions on their balance sheets at the close of books on December 31. Their last-minute investments push up share prices every year end, otherwise a quiet period.

Predicting a rise of 3 per cent over the coming weeks, Mr Robbins said: "The possibility of it being particularly strong is above average this year because we are at a start of a new bull market."

The biggest gainers of the year by far have been Internet companies. The share price of Amazon.com, the online bookseller, went up by a multiple of ten. America Online rose 600 per cent and will join the prestigious S&P 500 index in the new year — a first for an Internet company. AOL now has a bigger market capitalisation than The Walt Disney Company.

The London stock market will complete a full trading session today, but will close at 12.30 tomorrow for City firms to complete preparations for the euro.

European finance ministers will agree the exchange rates between the euro and the currencies of the 11 member countries that have signed up for economic and monetary union on Thursday morning and are expected to announce the rates at 11.30am.



Cricket score: Chris Rowlands, left, chief executive of TTC, and Terry Bate, its chairman

## TTC pads up to produce Channel 4 cricket

By MARTIN BARROW

THE Television Corporation (TTC), the independent television production company, is expected to announce today that it has won a contract to produce all domestic cricket coverage for Channel 4.

Sunset + Vine, TTC's programming and production arm, will produce all Test match cricket and coverage for NatWest Trophy matches from next season, starting with the visit of the New Zealand team. Channel 4's presentation will be led by Mark Nicholas, the former cricketer, and Richie Benaud, who is moving across from the BBC.

The deal comes after Channel 4's successful purchase in October of the rights to television cricket, breaking the BBC's 62-year monopoly over the broadcasting of the game on terrestrial television.

TTC is believed to have won the deal in competition with Trans World International, the company that helped Channel 4 to put together its bid for the cricket rights. Jeff Foulser, managing director of Sunset + Vine, said the deal was "a fantastic coup" for his company.

Sunset + Vine already produces all of Channel 5's sports, totalling 1,300 hours a year of five football, American football, baseball and hockey. It has also signed a two-year extension to a lucrative contract for the *Gillette World Sport Special* sports magazine programme, which is viewed in more than 140 countries.

Shares in TTC, whose chairman is Terry Bate, ended last week at 20p. In its last financial year the company earned pre-tax profits of £4.11 million on turnover of £31 million.

## Mortgage rates will fall to 6%, says Barclays

By MARIANNE CURPHY

MORTGAGE rates will fall to 6 per cent in 1999 and house prices will barely rise above the rate of inflation, according to Barclays Bank, which is predicting a steady year ahead for homebuyers and sellers.

The bank believes that the era of boom and bust, in which house prices soared before collapsing in the early 1990s, is now over.

Instead Barclays predicts increasing demand for capped-rate mortgages and short-term fixed rates from borrowers who want to lock in to lower rates over the long term.

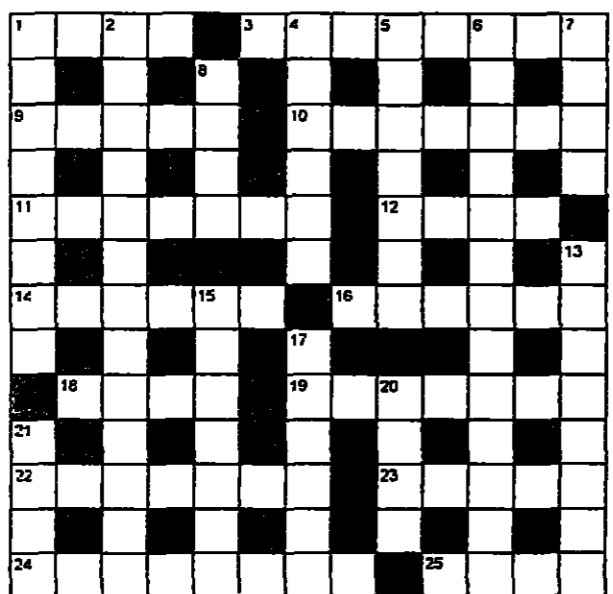
The typical mortgage standard variable rate, which is now between 7.5 per cent and 8.5 per cent, is likely to fall to 6 per cent, according to Jim Chadwick, mortgage marketing director at Barclays.

He believes that the Bank of England will cut interest rates to 5 per cent and possibly even lower.

He said: "There seems to be no sign of either boom or bust in mortgage lending or the housing market." He added that the economic slowdown posed "a difficult background for the housing market in 1999".

"However the market does not appear overblown and housing remains affordable against any long-term benchmark," Mr Chadwick said. "Homebuying activity is likely to be maintained at modest levels supported by falling mortgage rates and house price increases just above the rate of inflation."

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1600

#### ACROSS

- 1 Fortune (4)
- 3 Powerful mediaeval weapon (8)
- 9 Little padded boat (5)
- 10 Able to float (7)
- 11 Attentive to obligations (7)
- 12 A pudding: fake, dual (*slang*) (4)
- 14 Thomas —, Byrd's fellow-composer (6)
- 16 Graduate's qualification (6)
- 18 Mollen matter from volcano (4)
- 19 Sharp reply (7)
- 22 Adjective (7)
- 23 *Republic* author (5)

#### DOWN

- 24 Inclination (5)
- 25 Structure of net (4)
- 1 Clarity of expression (5)
- 2 Star group (13)
- 4 Disorganised crowd (6)
- 5 Metrical foot, tum-tum (7)
- 6 *Calm* = 0 on it (8,5)
- 7 The astute keep them about them (4)
- 8 One bound to land (4)
- 13 Huge beast, thing (8)
- 15 Scott *Crusade-time* story (7)
- 17 Reviewer (6)
- 20 *Chrysalis* (4)
- 21 Sharp blow: band (4)

#### SOLUTION TO NO 1599

- ACROSS: 1 Canopy 7 Equals 8 Live wire 10 Elevate 11 Admired 12 Dress 14 Ukase 15 April 19 Pledged 20 Mycenae 22 Stubborn 23 Hijack 24 Crusts
- DOWN: 1 Cellar 2 November 3 Powerful 4 Keel 5 Quiver 6 Zlotovs 9 Red carpet 12 December 13 Exiguous 16 Physio 17 Ice-cap 18 Adonis 21 Asks

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## US investors prepare for hedge fund exodus

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

US INVESTORS are expected to withdraw billions of dollars in the new year from hedge funds that have been affected by a clutch of scandals and failures during 1998.

Money invested in a hedge fund is usually fixed until the year end. Fund managers do not allow spontaneous withdrawals, to protect themselves against a rush to the exit if they start losing money.

Many investors have already indicated to fund managers that they will use their first chance to withdraw cash in January. Popular funds often require 30 to 90 days' notice.

The hedge funds suffered a terrible blow to their reputation

this year when Long Term Capital Management (LTCM), probably the premier fund on Wall Street, had to be bailed out by a \$3.6 billion (£2.1 billion) consortium.

LTCM had combined top brains from Salomon Brothers and the Federal Reserve with Nobel laureate economists. Nevertheless, the fund was wiped out by supposedly risk-free investment in a matter of weeks.

After the LTCM debacle, other hedge funds were also forced to admit huge losses, including Everest Capital and Paloma Partners Management. DE Shaw, the biggest Japanese bond trading house

in London, was forced into a fire sale and Tiger Management and the Soros Fund, the two industry leaders, reported surprise losses.

According to estimates, a total of \$200 billion is currently invested in US hedge funds. Analysts expect a withdrawal of up to 25 per cent, or \$50 billion.

During the last period of intense stock market turmoil in 1994, hedge funds experienced a similar mass withdrawal. More than 20 per cent was pulled out of the speculative funds as investors anticipated an end to the fledgling boom. But growth returned quickly, and so did the hedge fund investors.

## Paris aids link-up for Thomson

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE French Government yesterday confirmed that it was prepared to reduce its 40 per cent stake in Thomson-CSF, the country's flagship defence electronics company, to help to secure a merger with GEC.

A spokeswoman in Paris said: "The French Government would back any deal involving Thomson, with GEC or with another [group], that had industrial logic and preserved French interests."

The Government cut its stake from 58 per cent earlier this year to make room for industrial partnerships with other French companies in the field such as Alcatel, which is now Thomson's largest private shareholder, with 16 per cent.

France poised, page 37

## Perfume houses scent a fight

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM



LEADING international perfume houses, including America's Estée Lauder, are competing to acquire the perfumes business of Sanofi, the French chemicals company, after a decision by LVMH to pull out of talks.

Other possible buyers of the Sanofi business, which includes the Yves Saint Laurent, Oscar de la Renta, Van Kleef & Arpels, Krizia and Fendi fragrances, are seen as Wella of Germany, Shiseido of Japan and Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch group that owns the Calvin Klein and Elizabeth Arden cosmetics businesses.

LVMH, the luxury goods group that has Christian Dior, Guerlain, Kenzo and Givenchy in its perfume line-up, has abandoned its attempt to buy the Sanofi business. It had been expected to pay Fr5 billion (£549 million), but said it was unhappy with Sanofi's insistence that the business be run independently rather than be integrated with LVMH's own perfume business.

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